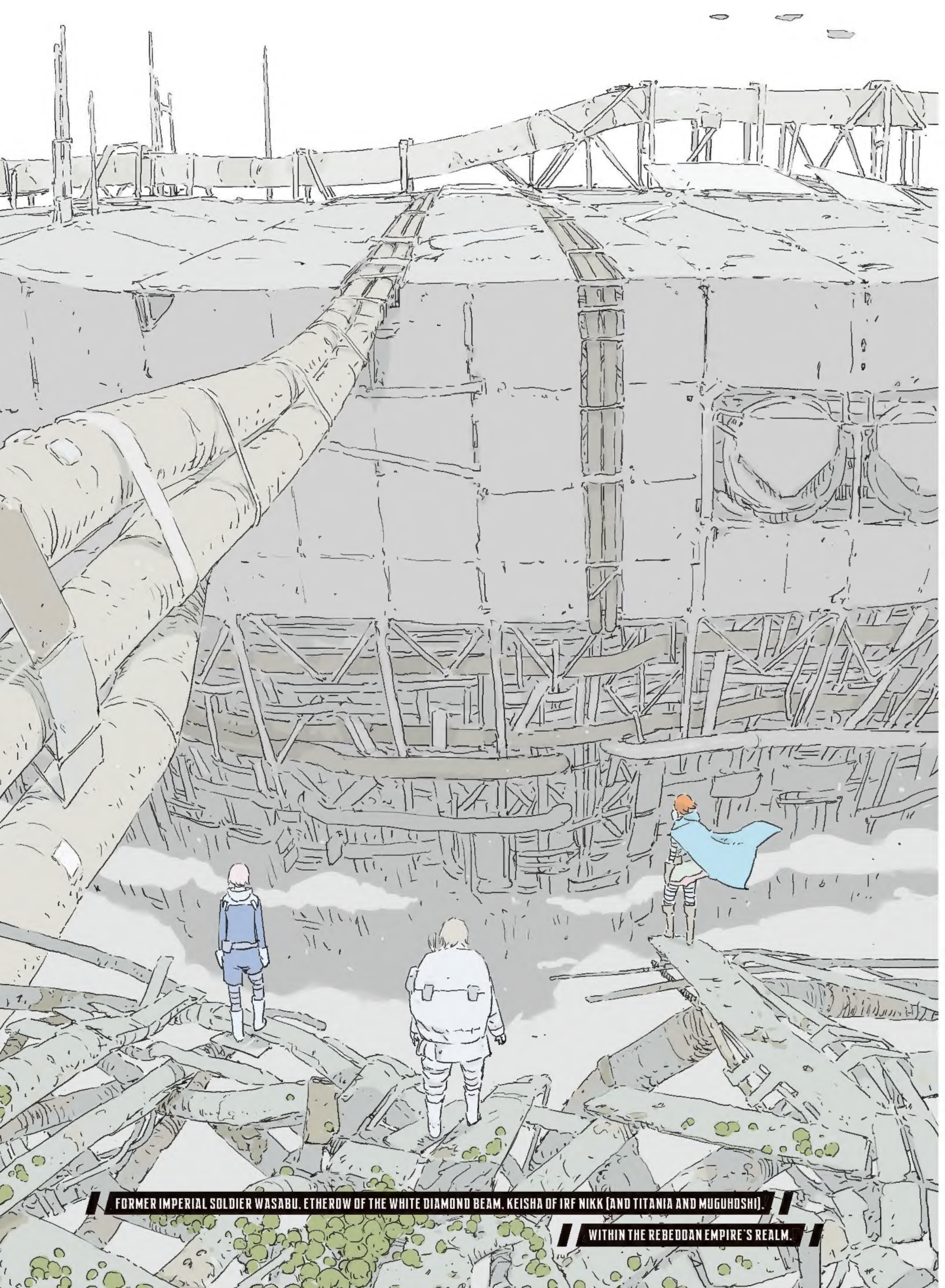
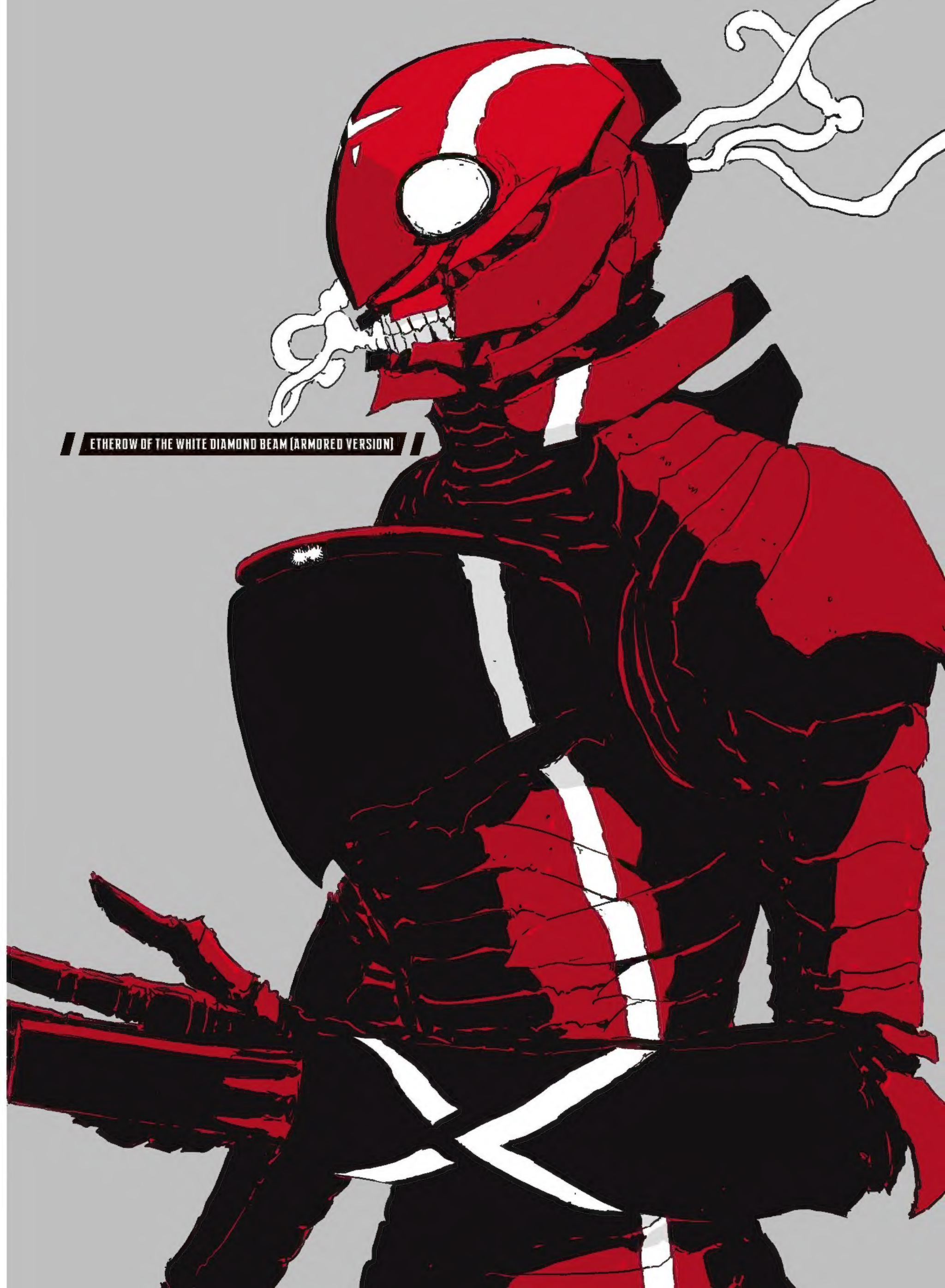
APOSIMZ

TSUTOMU NIHEI

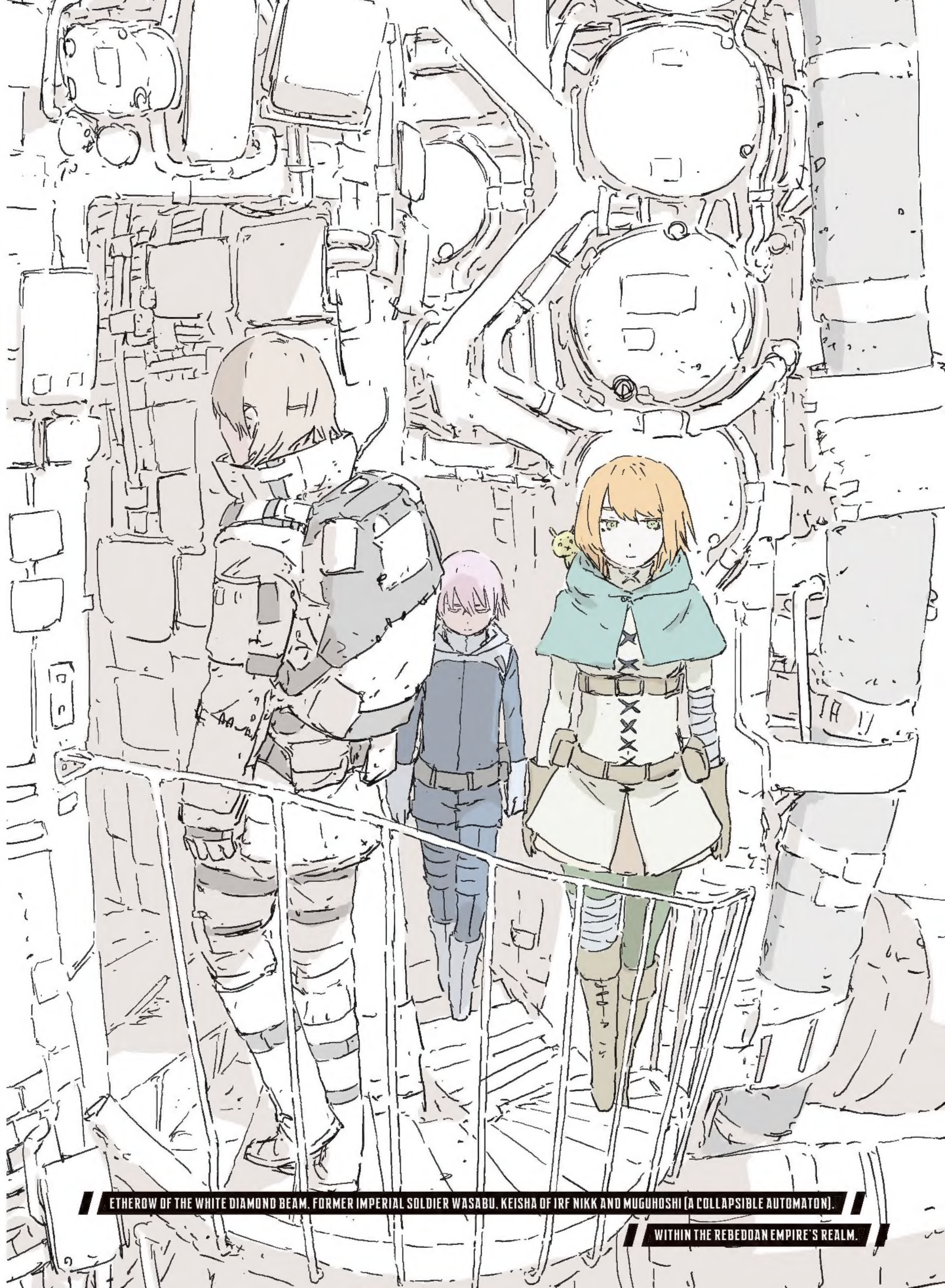
08


FORMER IMPERIAL SOLDIER WASABU. ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM. KEISHA OF IRF NIKK (AND TITANIA AND MUGUHOSHI).
WITHIN THE REBEDOAN EMPIRE'S REALM.



ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM (ARMORED VERSION)

TITANIA (HUMANOID VERSION)


ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM. FORMER IMPERIAL SOLDIER WASABU. KEISHA OF IRF NIKK AND MUGUHOSHI (A COLLAPSIBLE AUTOMATON).
WITHIN THE REBEDDAN EMPIRE'S REALM.

APOSIMZ

08

TSUTOMU
NIHEI

PLOT AND CHARACTER INTRO

REBEDOAN EMPIRE

A militant state with powerful, heavily-armed forces that continues to invade various regions. Has many Regular Frames in its ranks.

NICHIKO SUOU

The Emperor of Rebedoa. Has the ability to predict the future.

JATE

A high-level Reincarnated of the Rebedoan Empire. Has the ability to manipulate Automatons.

TOSU

A high-level Reincarnated of the Rebedoan Empire. Has the ability to manipulate metal.

AJATE

A clone of Jate created via artificial Code. She looks like a giant version of Jate.

RINAI

Reincarnated.
An old friend of Jate's.
Has the ability to transfer matter.

TASHITSUMA

Member of the Imperial Science Division. Successfully created a Regular Frame clone of Jate named Ajate.

TRUE CORE CHURCH

Organization created by Kajiwan to gather those afflicted with Frame disease. Bestows certain sufferers with knowledge and power, turning them into "Regenerateds." Views both the Empire and humans as enemies.

KAJIWAN

The last King of Irf Nikk. Using the powers of the mysterious Frame created from Titania's stolen arm, he became a Regular Frame himself. Has the ability to produce fireballs.

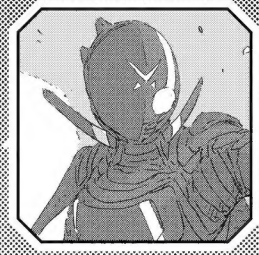
JINATA

Regenerated member of the True Core Church. Her only power is the ability to fight back against Regular Frames.

Previously

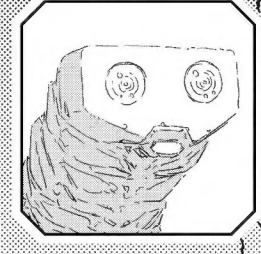
In order to fulfill their mission of taking down Nichiko Suou, Etherow and his party press further into the Empire. Kajiwan, having lost most of his followers, has ended up in the Northern Composite Slab Region to collect holy relics and grow more "hosts." Meanwhile, the city of Rutohmero, near the Empire's border, has seen a mass outbreak of Frame disease sufferers...

ETHEROW AND HIS PARTY



ETHEROW

Became a Regular Frame with Titania's help. Master marksman. Badly injured when Ume fell, but then recovered.



TITANIA

An Automaton with two forms. She is able to read the thoughts of humans and Frames via touch.

KEISHA

A Regular Frame who can manipulate electricity and uses an expandable staff. Sister of Kajiwan, leader of the True Core Church.

MUGUHOSHI

A collapsible Automaton. Very powerful with no apparent weak points, but can only activate its powers for a short period of time.

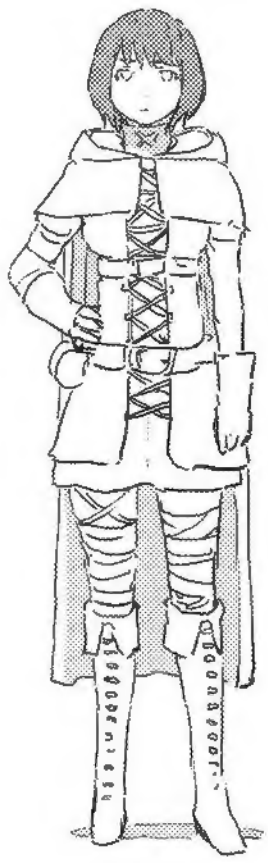
WASABU

A Regular Frame who joined Etherow's party after the Empire's brainwashing wore off. Has the ability to fly.

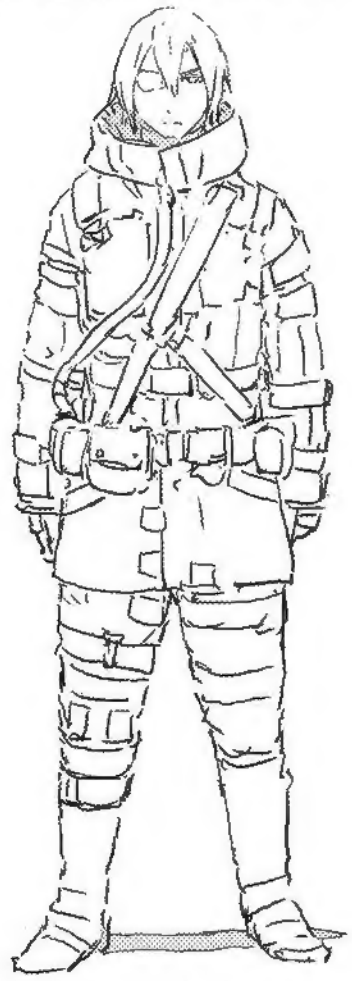
APOSIMZ

CHAPTER 43

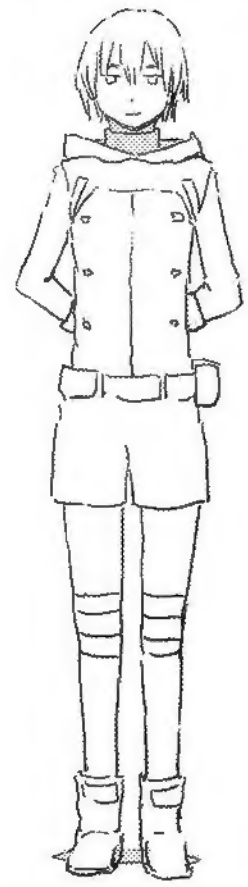
KEISHA OF IRF NIKK (HUMAN FORM)



ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM (HUMAN FORM)

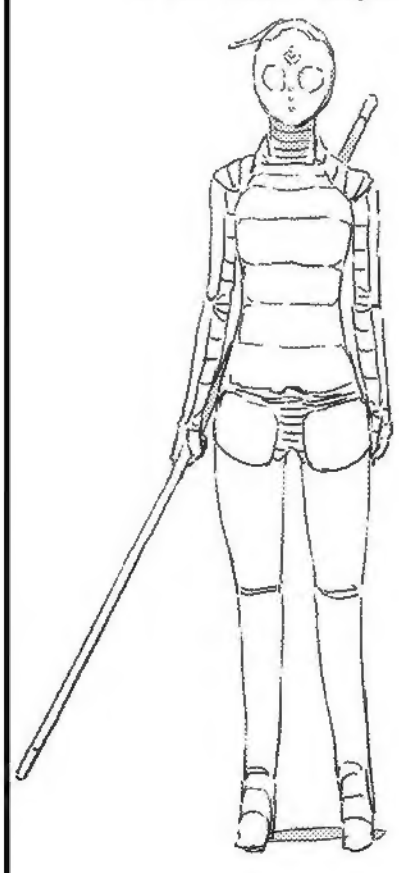


FORMER IMPERIAL SOLDIER WASABU (HUMAN FORM)

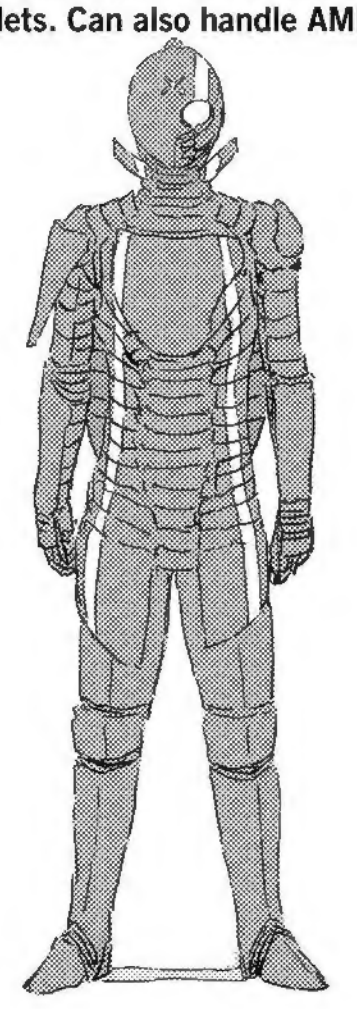


By using "Codes," humans are transformed into Regular Frames. A Regular Frame has powerful physical abilities, has no need for breathing or nutrition (exceptions exist), and does not age. A Regular Frame will not die unless their brain is destroyed.

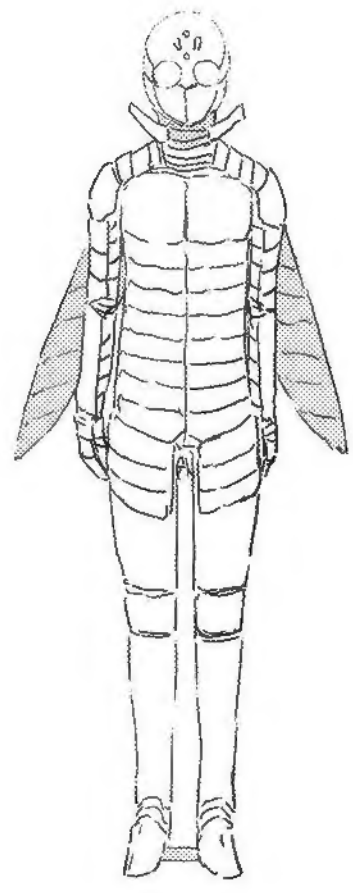
KEISHA'S FRAME FORM
Uses an electric shock element. An extendible staff (which can also be split apart) is her main weapon.



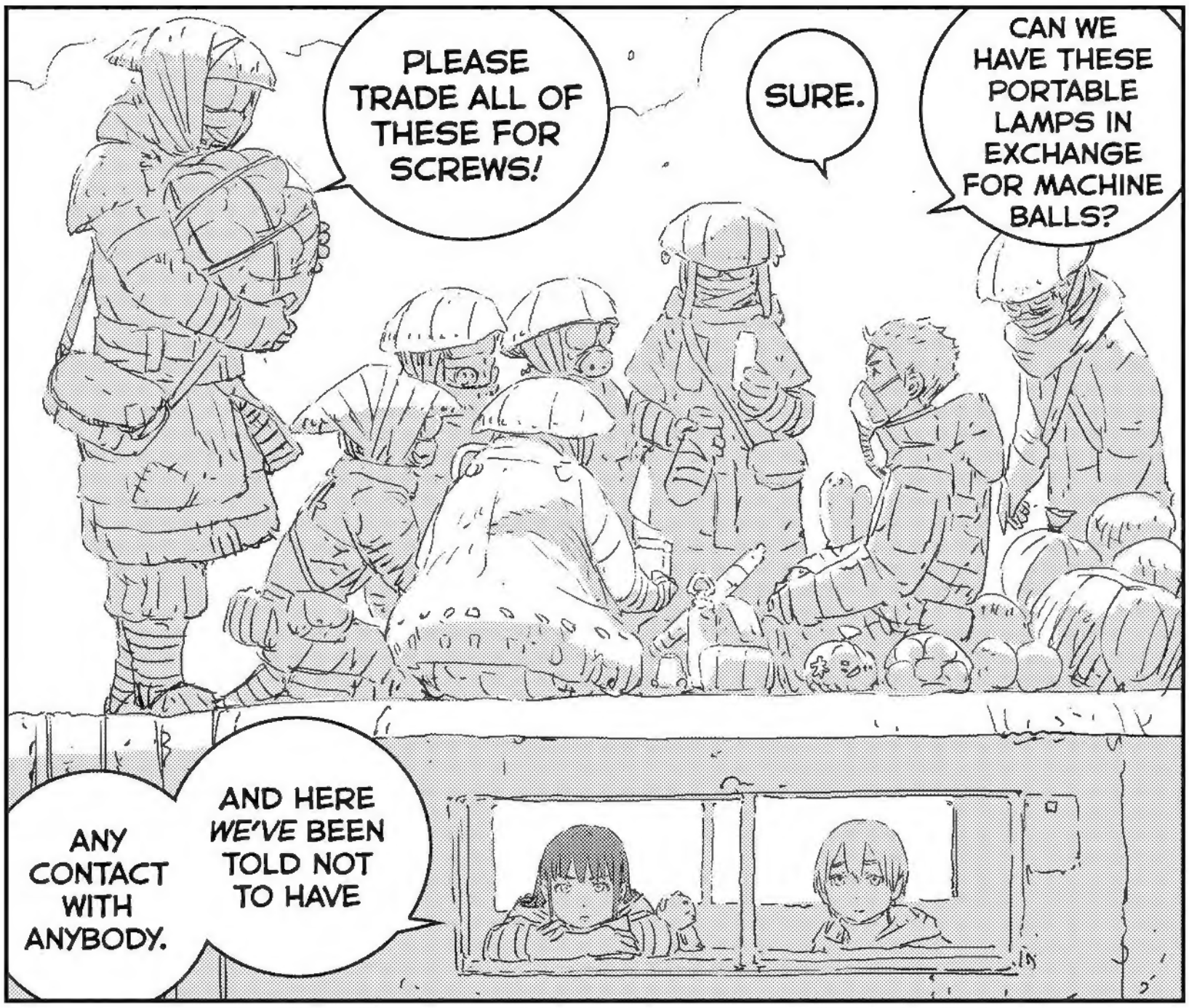
ETHEROW'S FRAME FORM
Has the projectile firing "EBTG" ability, with which he can fire diverse bullets. Can also handle AMBs.



WASABU'S FRAME FORM
Doesn't have any unique abilities, but can fly.



GWOOM
ゴォー


PLEASE TRADE ALL OF THESE FOR SCREWS!
SURE.
CAN WE HAVE THESE PORTABLE LAMPS IN EXCHANGE FOR MACHINE BALLS?
ANY CONTACT WITH ANYBODY.
AND HERE *WE'VE* BEEN TOLD NOT TO HAVE

I'LL EAT ALL OF IT, AND TURN IT INTO PLACENTA.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL THAT?

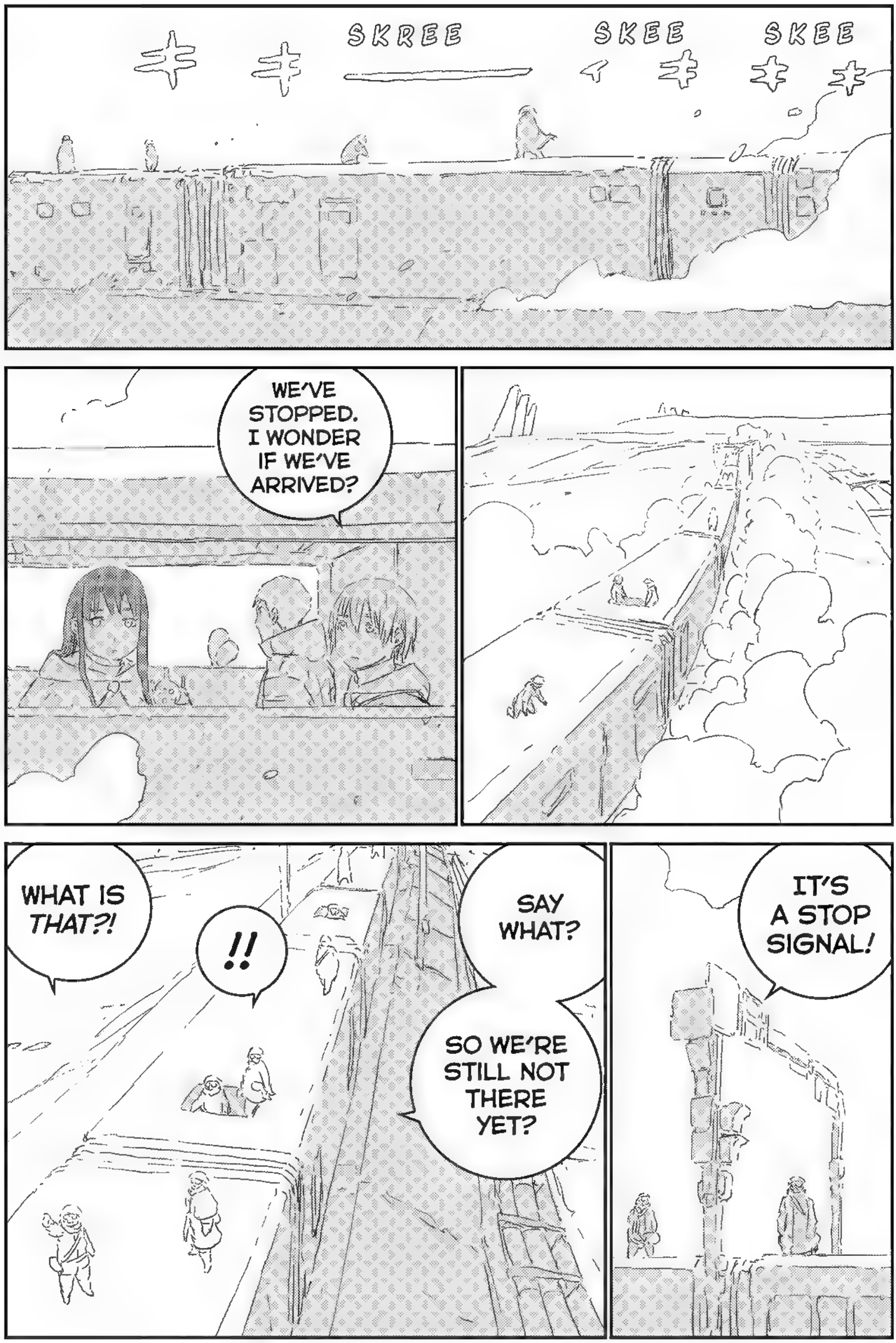
I'LL GET US SOME FOOD.

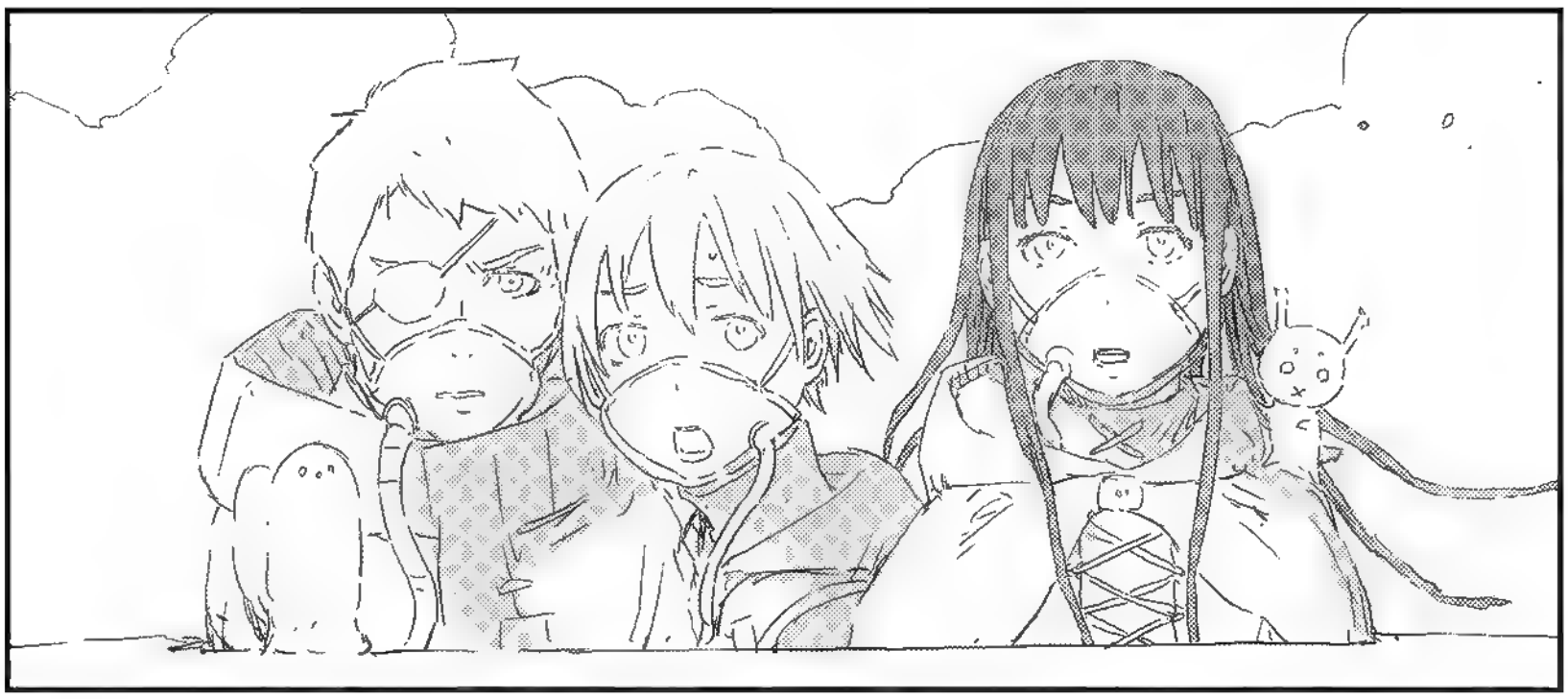
WE'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF SCREWS.

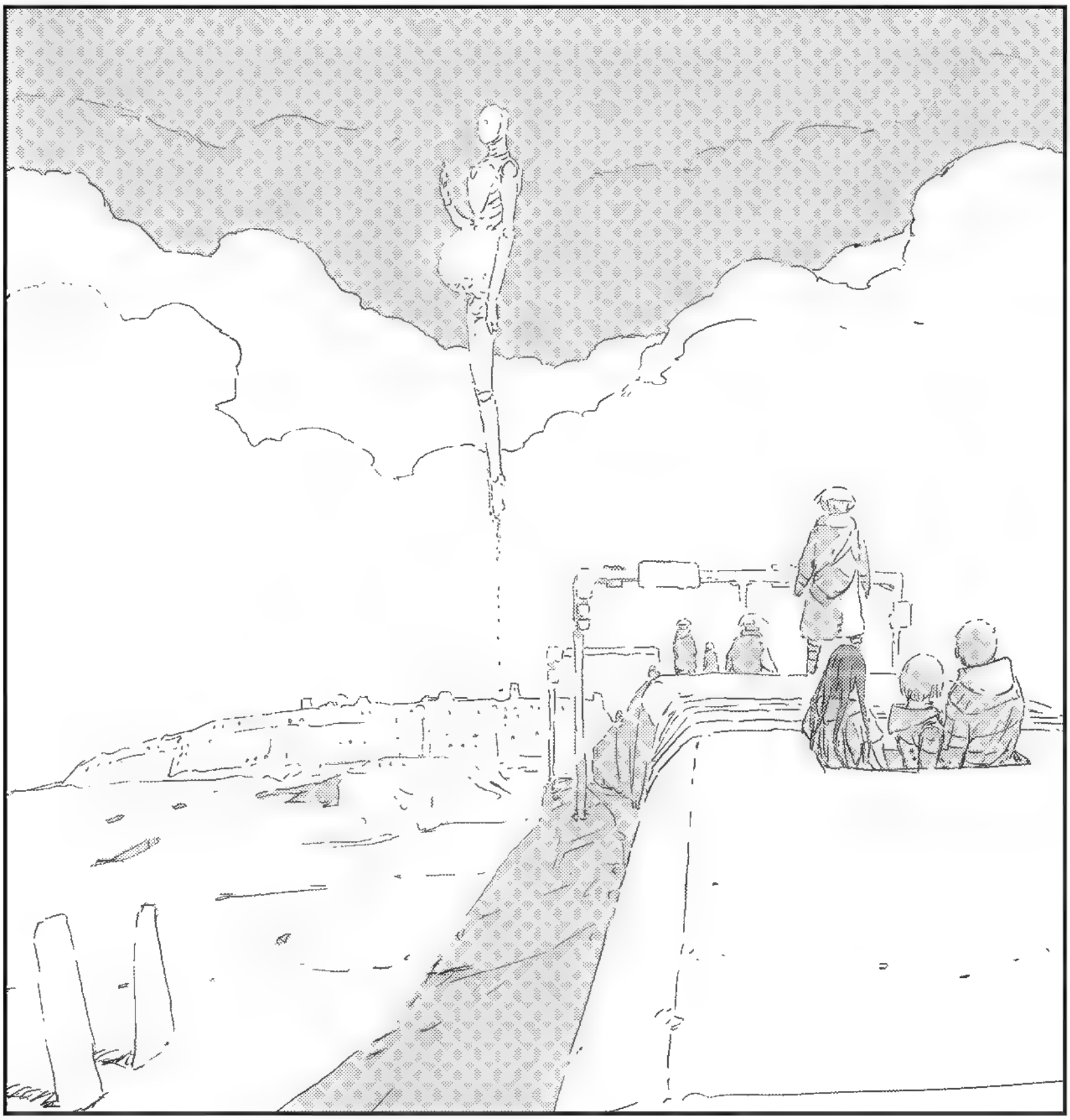
APPARENTLY THE TRAIN WILL STOP FOR A WHILE AT A CITY CALLED RUTOHMERO.

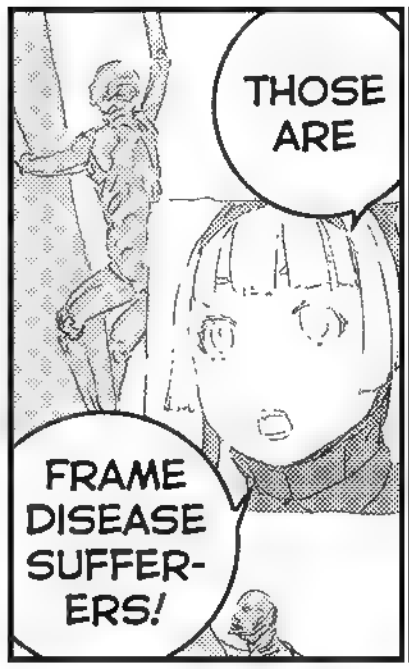
...

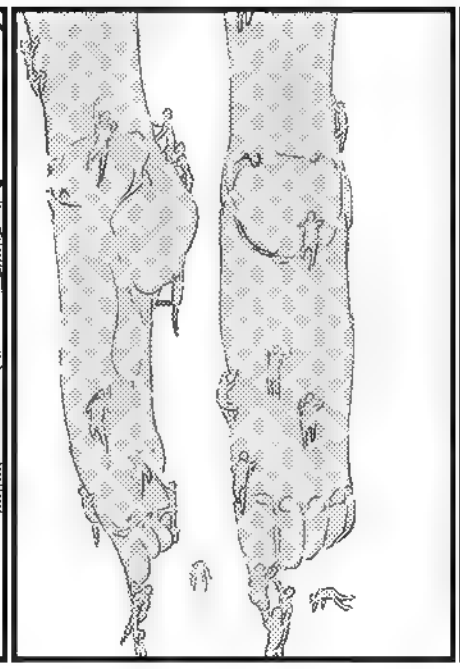
WAKE ME WHEN WE GET THERE.

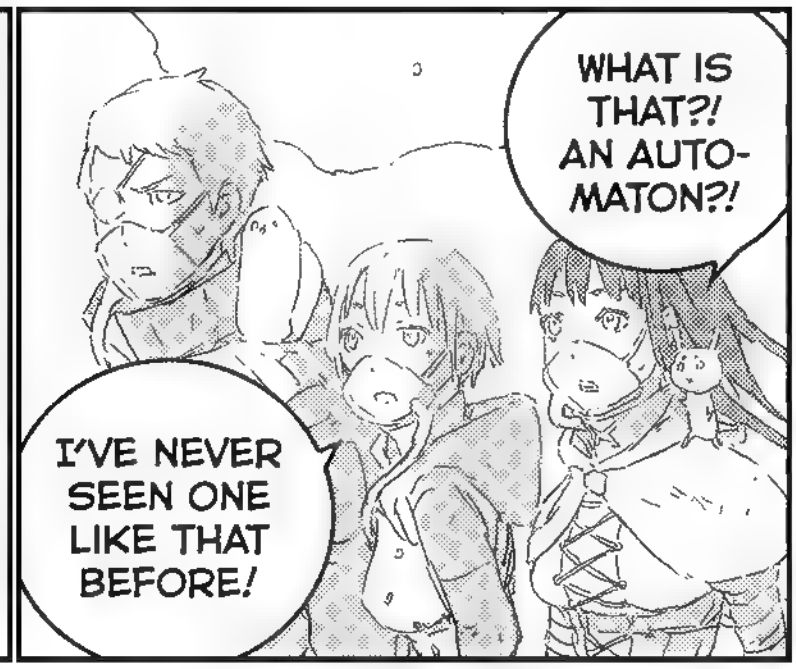

SKREE
SKEE
SKEE
WE'VE STOPPED. I WONDER IF WE'VE ARRIVED?
WHAT IS THAT?!
!!
SAY WHAT?
SO WE'RE STILL NOT THERE YET?
IT'S A STOP SIGNAL!

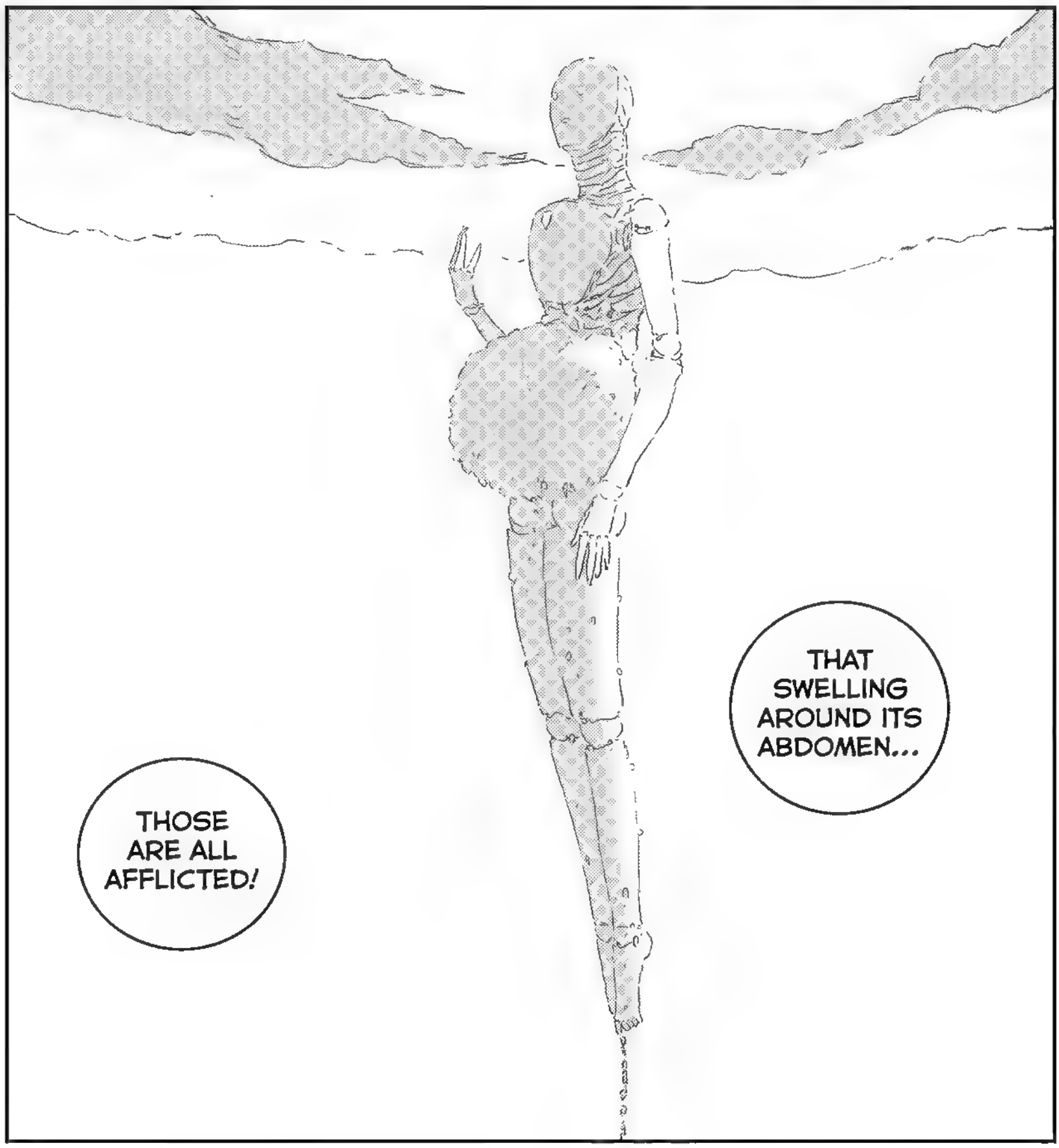


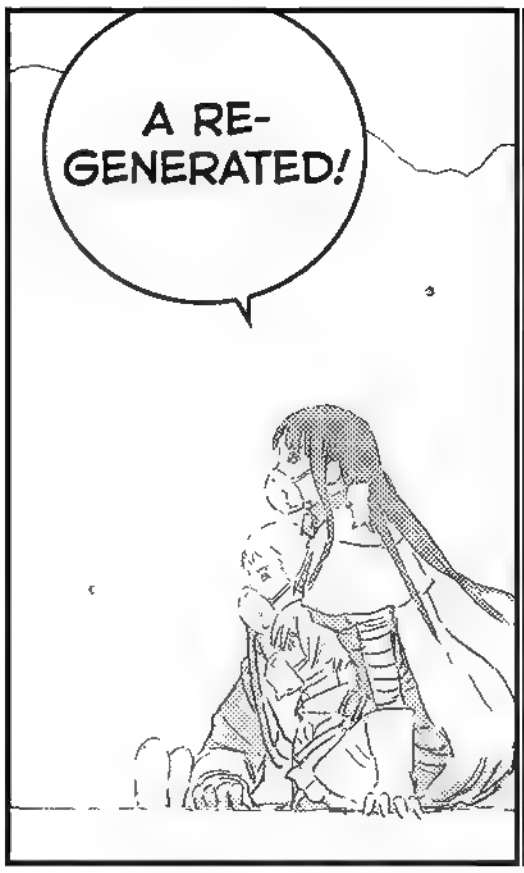


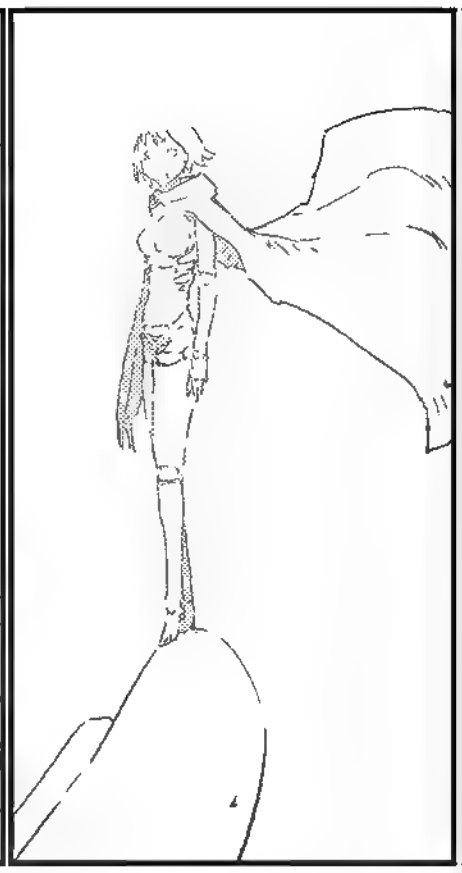

THOSE ARE
FRAME DISEASE SUFFER-ERS!

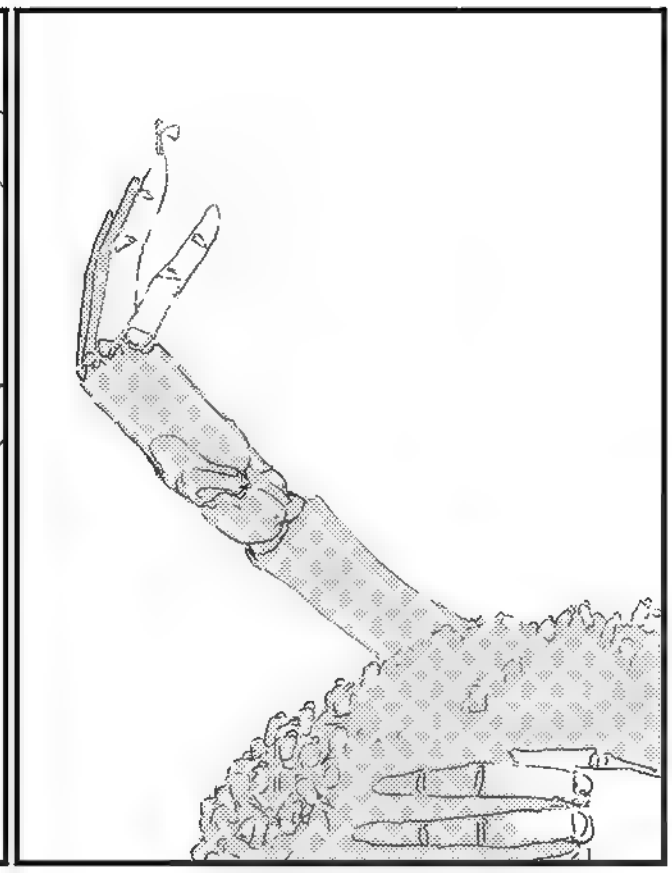


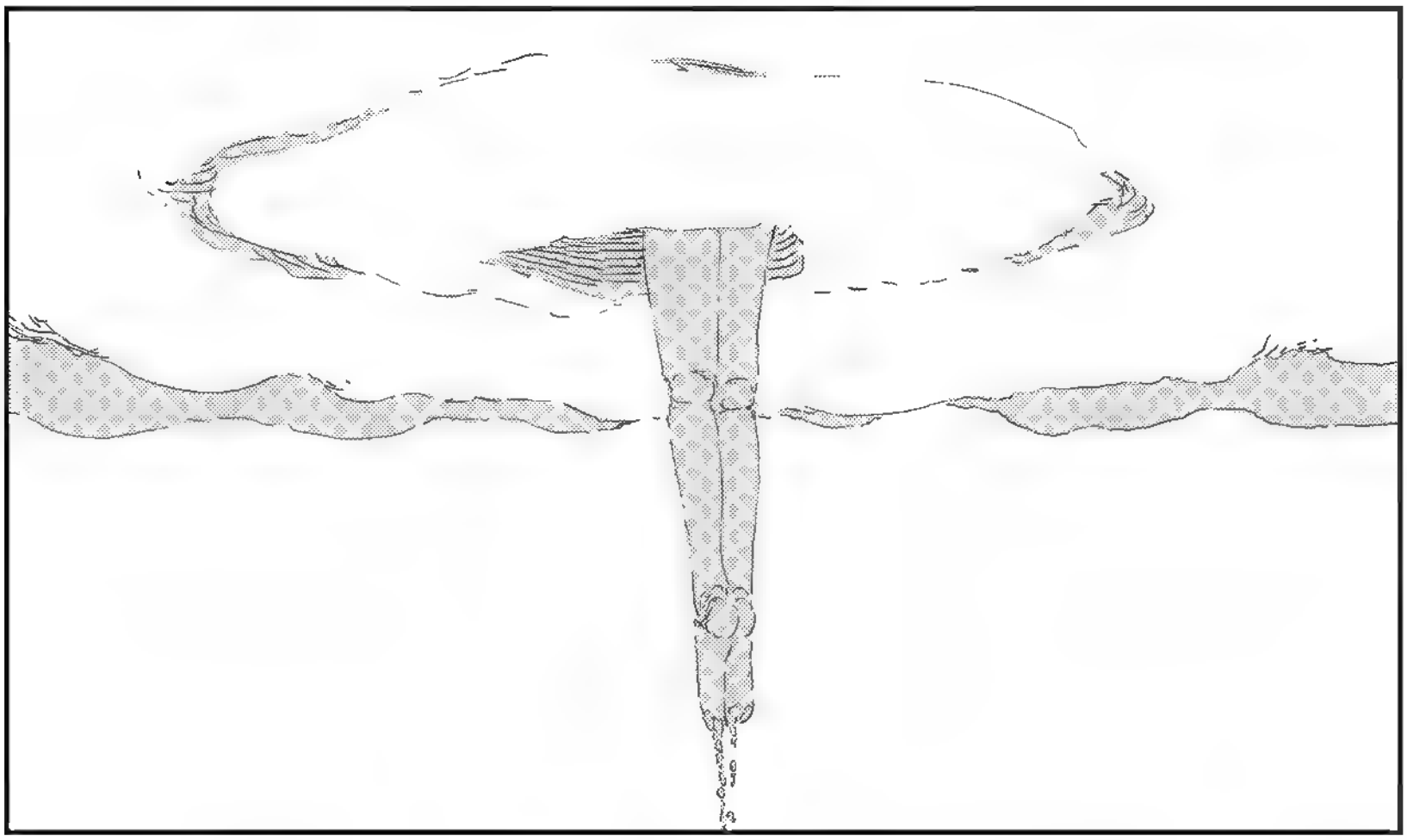

WHAT IS THAT?! AN AUTO-MATON?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE THAT BEFORE!

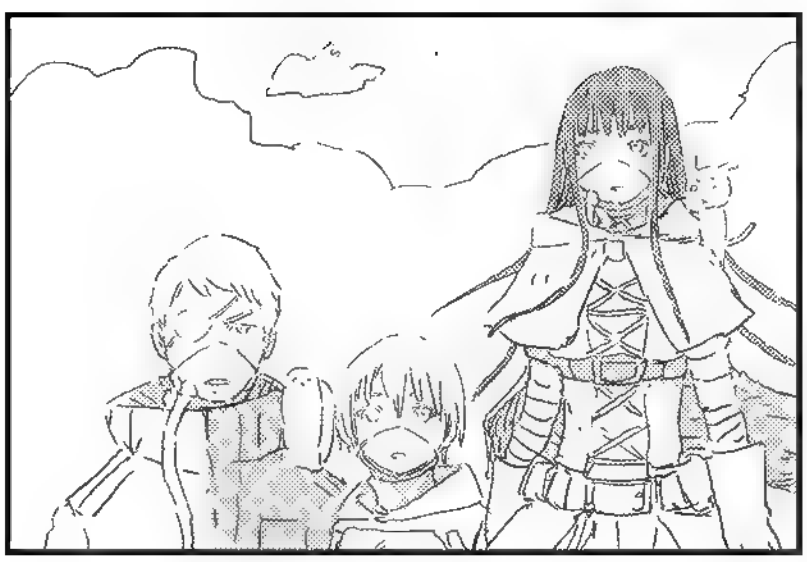

THAT SWELLING AROUND ITS ABDOMEN...
THOSE ARE ALL AFFLICTED!

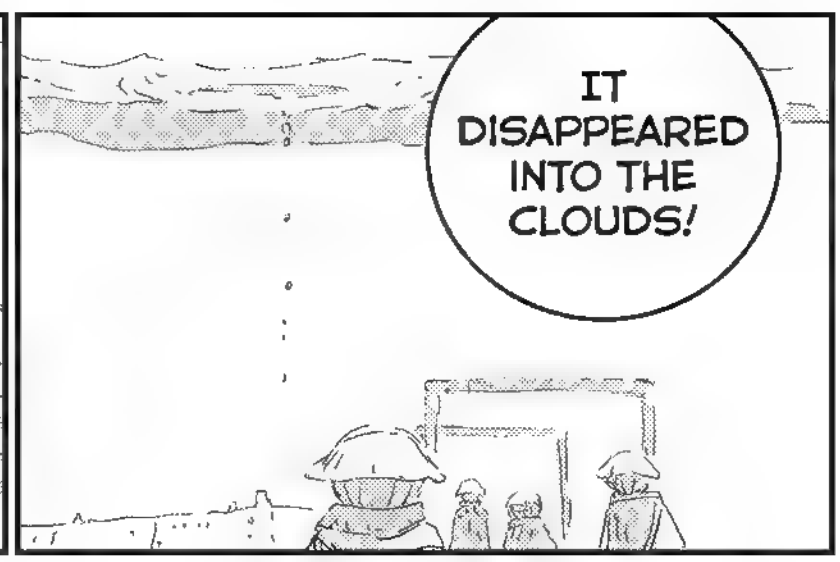

A RE-GENERATED!










IT DISAPPEARED INTO THE CLOUDS!

FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLIER AT A NORTHERN REBEDOA MILITARY FACILITY.

GNG

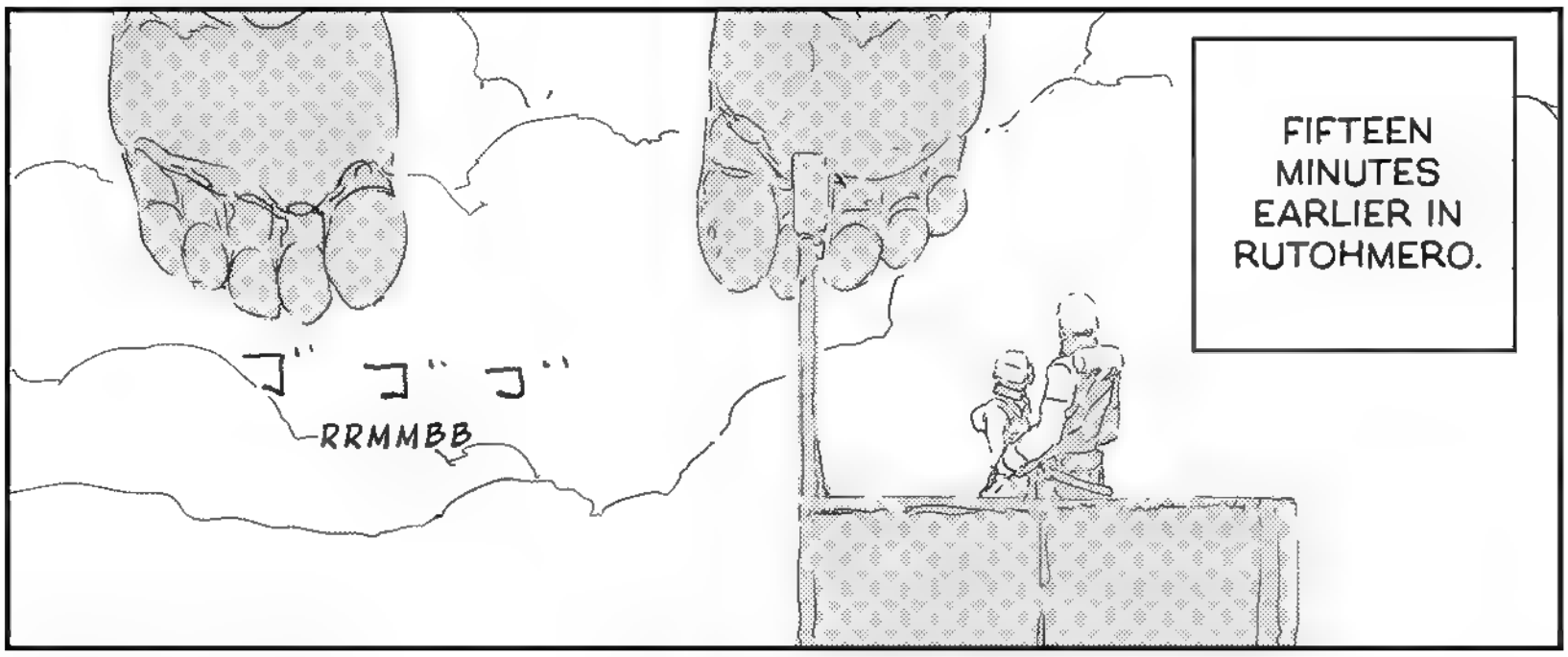
GNG

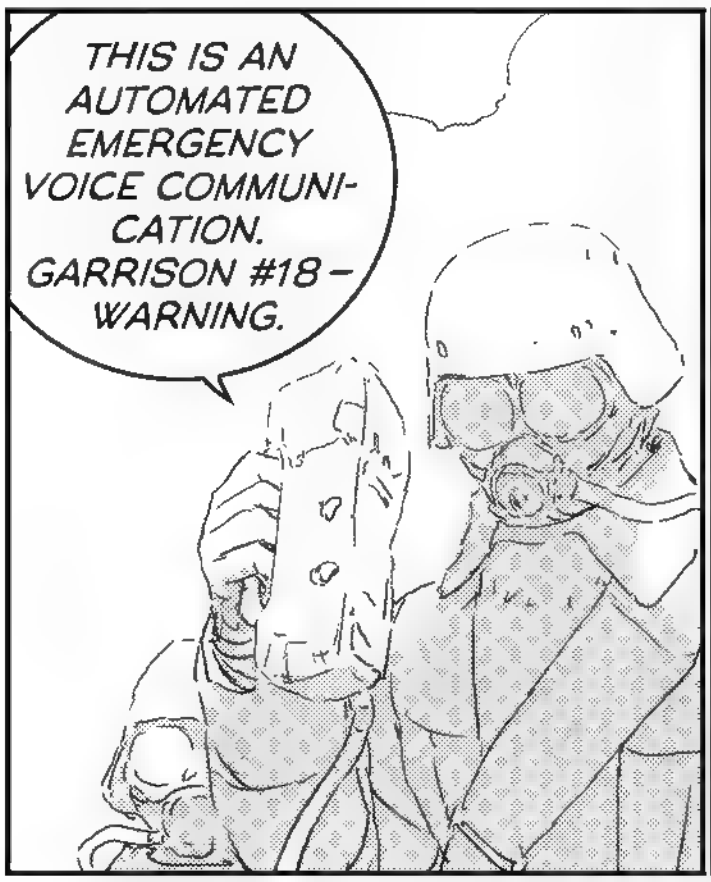
GNG

KUNNG

ZWOOSH

TARGET: RUTOHMERO! LAUNCHING FIREBALL MISSILE!

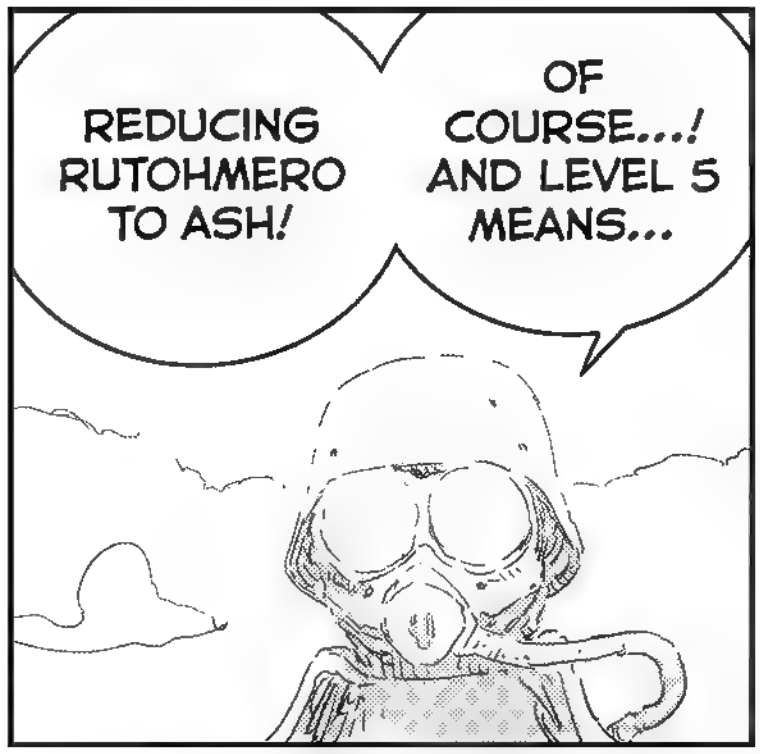

FIFTEEN MINUTES EARLIER IN RUTOHMERO.
RRMMBB

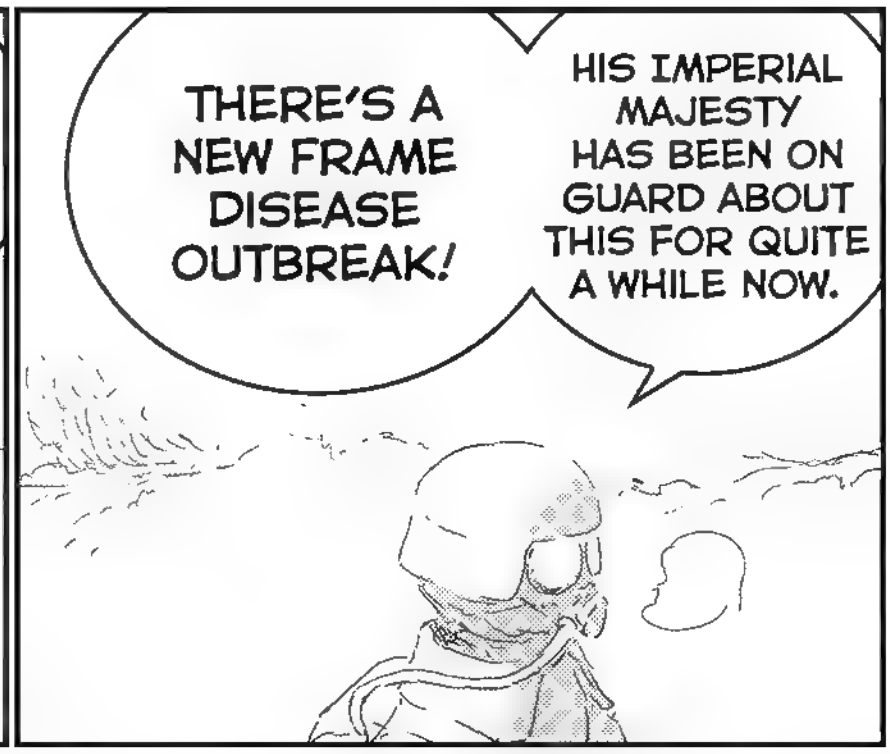

THIS IS AN AUTOMATED EMERGENCY VOICE COMMUNICATION. GARRISON #18 – WARNING.

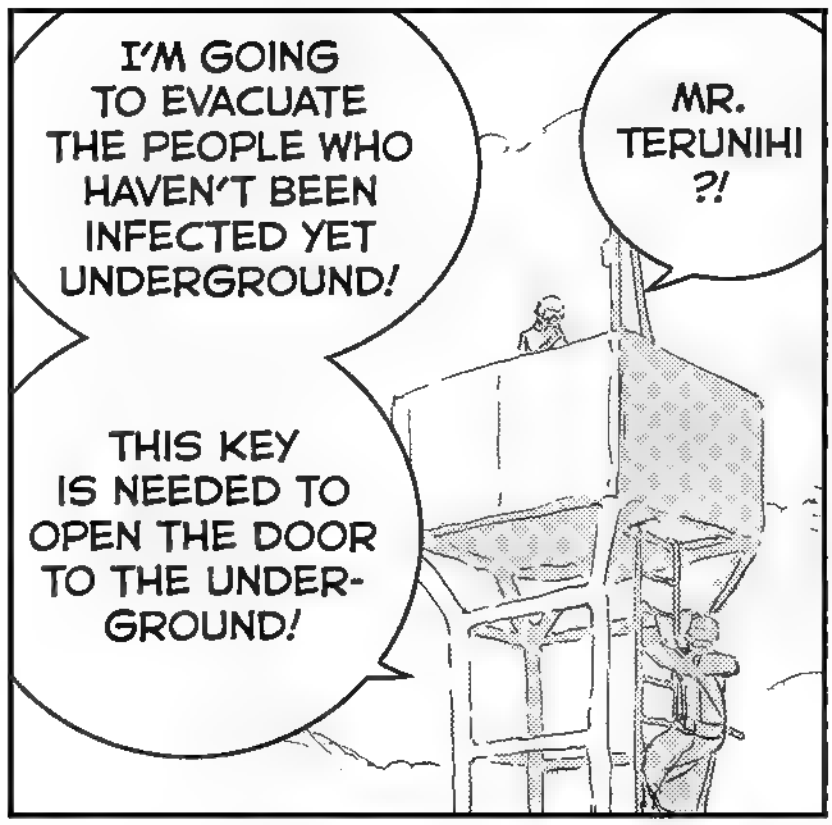
I'M AFRAID!
WHAT IS THAT?!
PLATINK ♪

IT'S... YOU KNOW!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

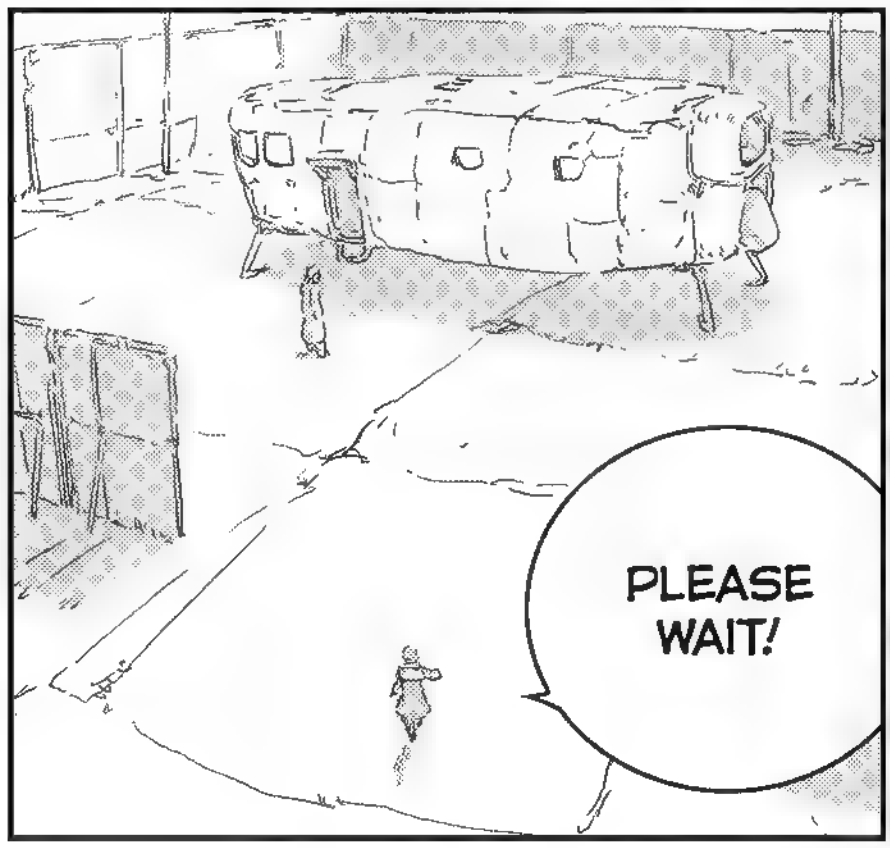
PLEASE EVACUATE TO AN AREA OUTSIDE A 30-KM RADIUS WITHIN THE NEXT 30 MINUTES.
LEVEL 5 EPIDEMIC CONTROL OPERATION PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN INITIATED.
H-HOLD ON JUST A SECOND!


REDUCING RUTOHMERO TO ASH!
OF COURSE...! AND LEVEL 5 MEANS...

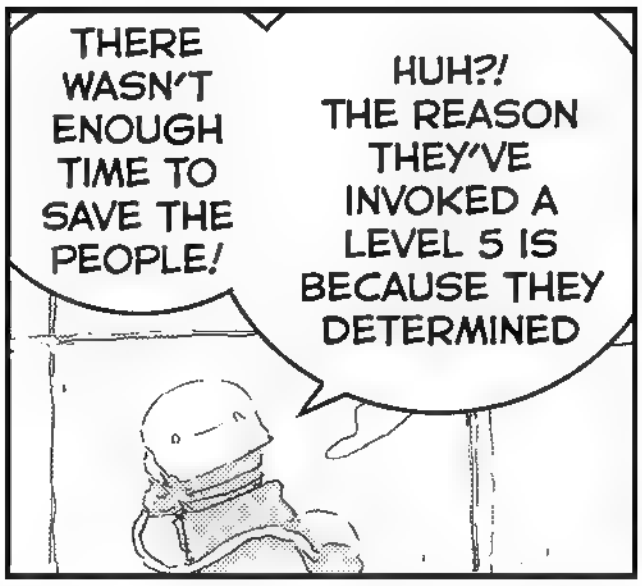

THERE'S A NEW FRAME DISEASE OUTBREAK!
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAS BEEN ON GUARD ABOUT THIS FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW.

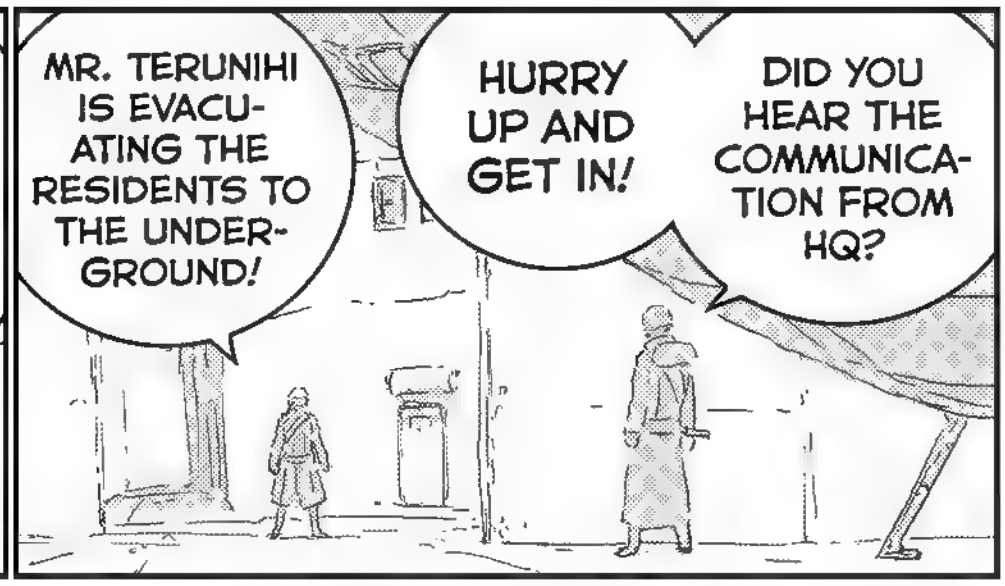

I'M GOING TO EVACUATE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN INFECTED YET UNDERGROUND!
MR. TERUNIHI ?!
THIS KEY IS NEEDED TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE UNDER-GROUND!

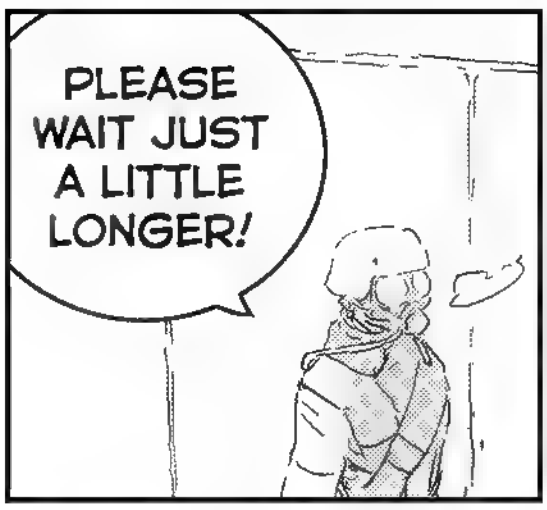
PLEASE DON YOUR MASKS AND PROTECTIVE WEAR
AND GATHER BEFORE THE DOOR TO THE UNDERGROUND IMMEDIATELY!
ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS!

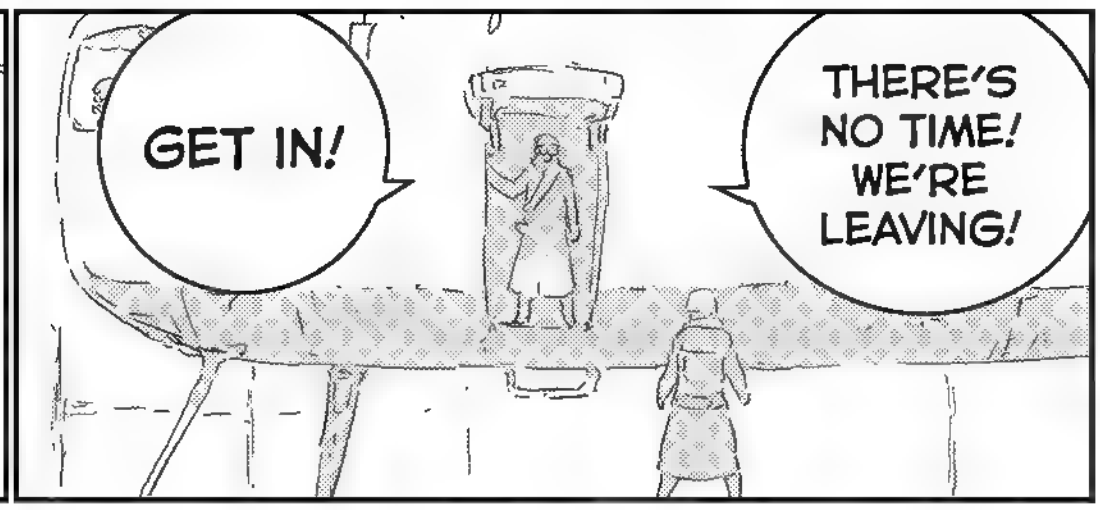

PLEASE WAIT!

Y-YES, SIR!
AND WAIT ON THE SHIP!
YOU INFORM THE REGIMENTAL COMMAND-ER,

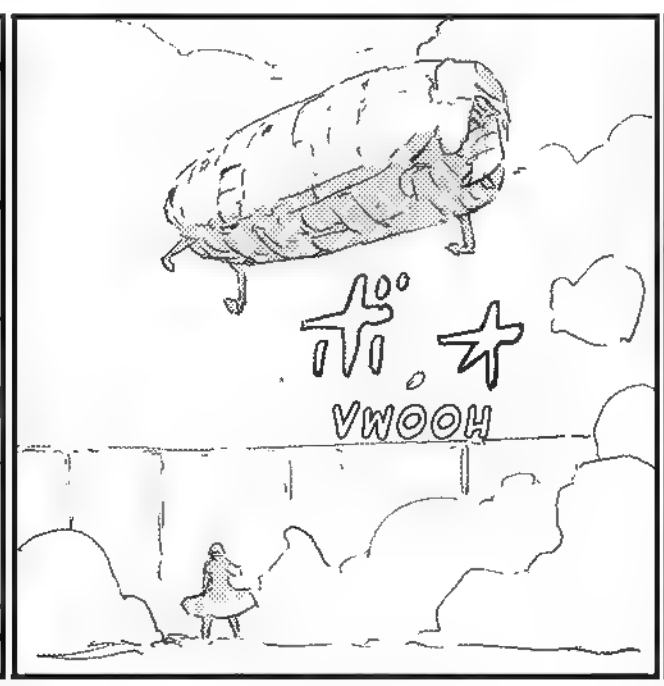

THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO SAVE THE PEOPLE!
HUH?! THE REASON THEY'VE INVOKED A LEVEL 5 IS BECAUSE THEY DETERMINED

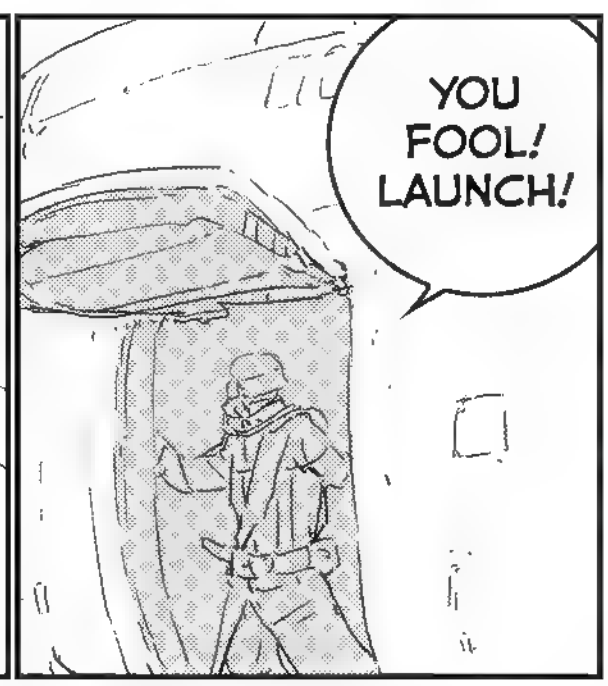

MR. TERUNIHI IS EVACUATING THE RESIDENTS TO THE UNDERGROUND!
HURRY UP AND GET IN!
DID YOU HEAR THE COMMUNICATION FROM HQ?


PLEASE WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER!

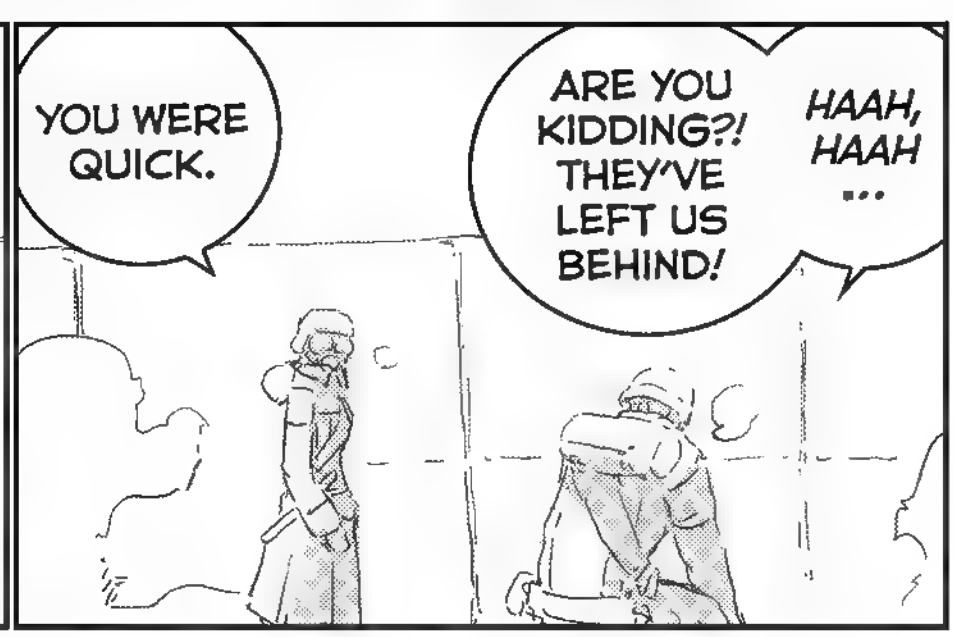

GET IN!
THERE'S NO TIME! WE'RE LEAVING!

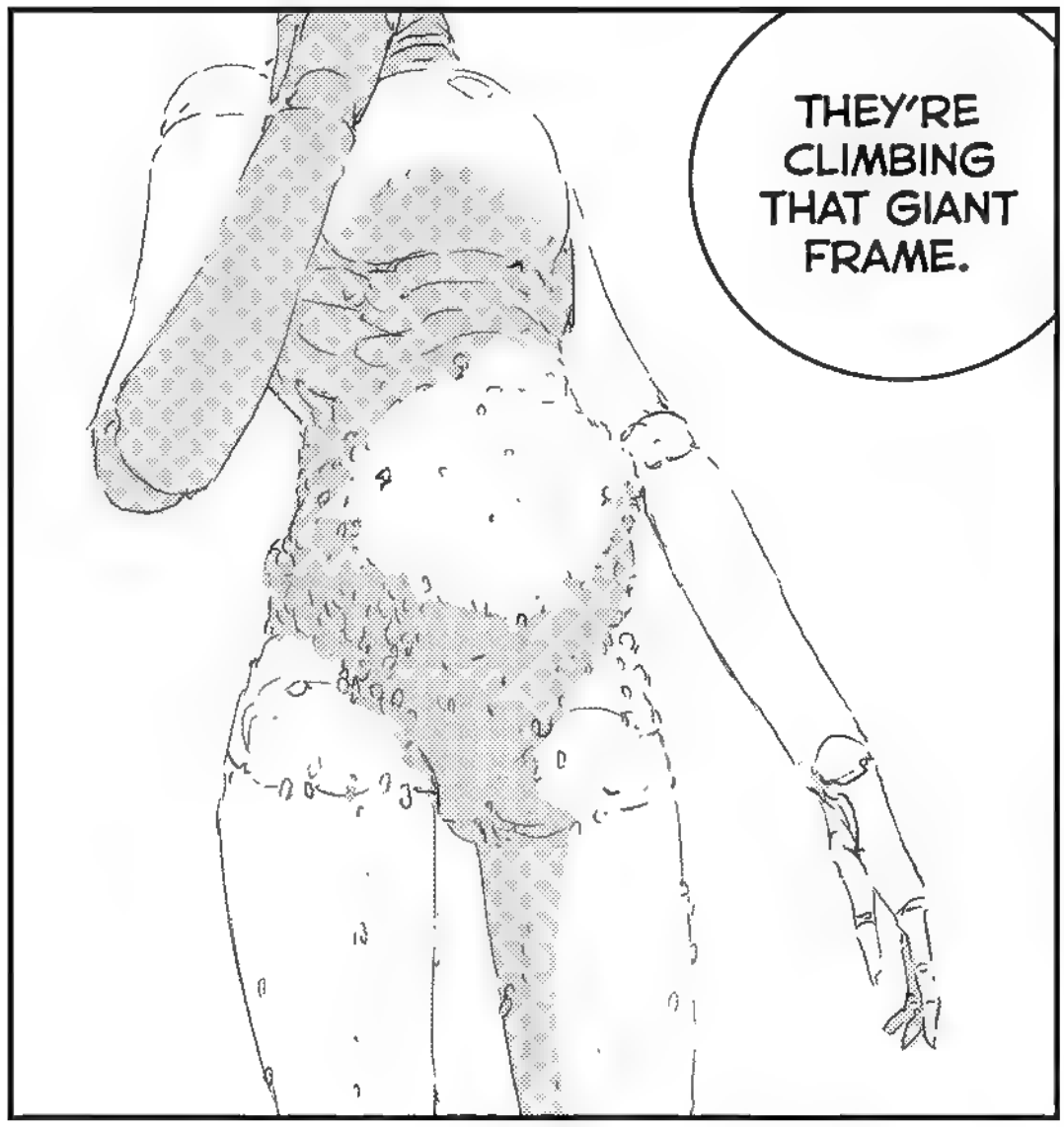
HEY! WAIT!

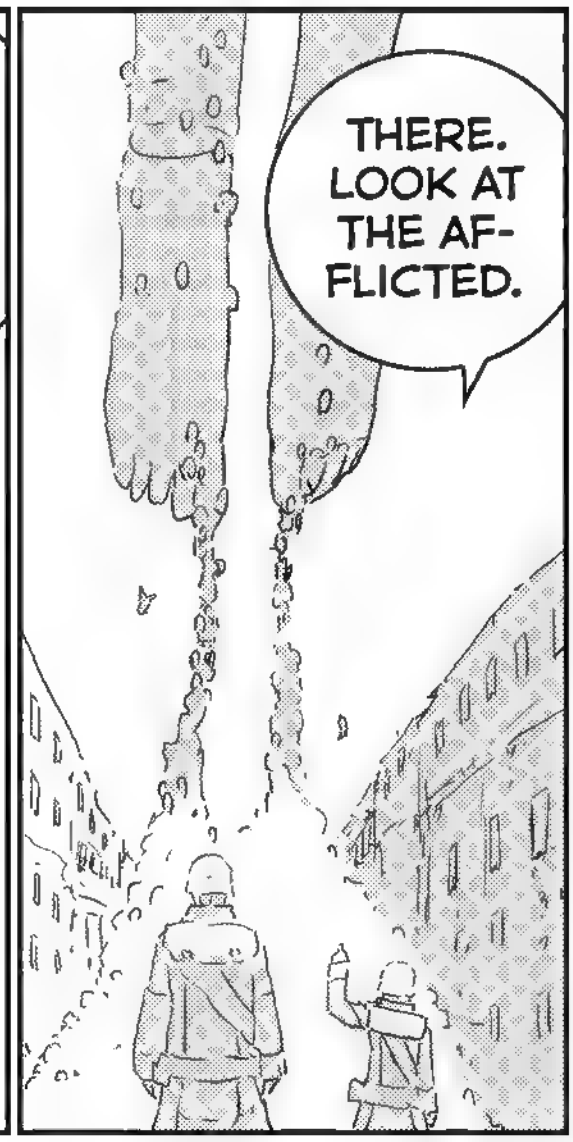

VWOOH

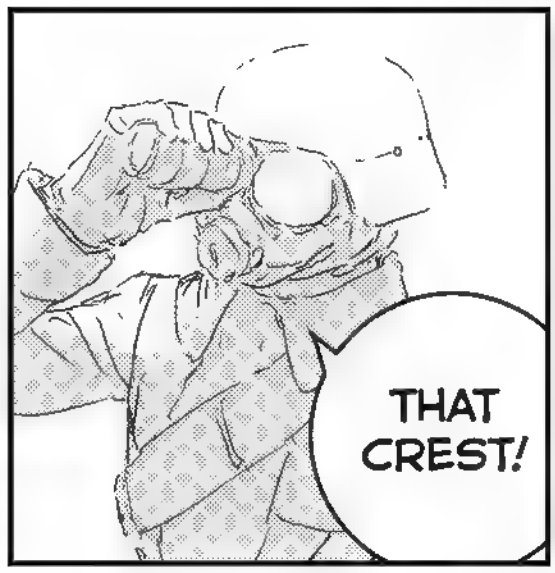

YOU FOOL! LAUNCH!

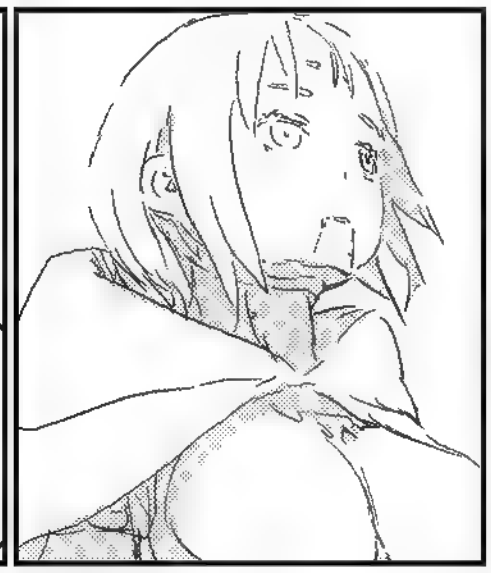
THEY'RE ALL INFECTED.


YOU WERE QUICK.
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THEY'VE LEFT US BEHIND!
HAAH, HAAH ...

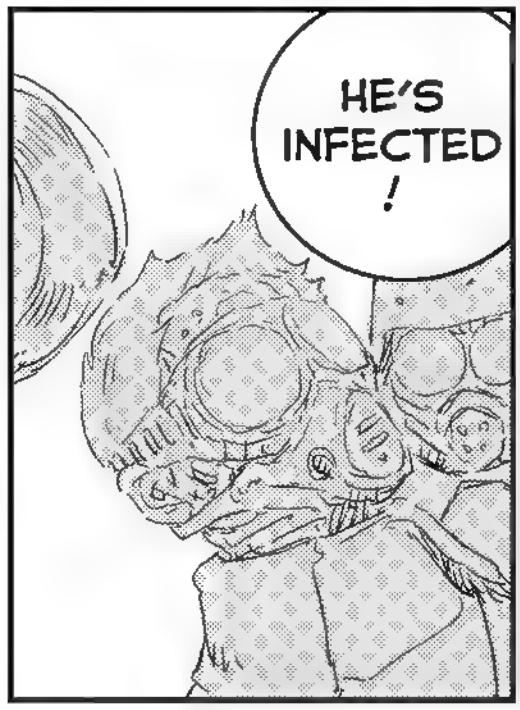

THEY'RE CLIMBING THAT GIANT FRAME.

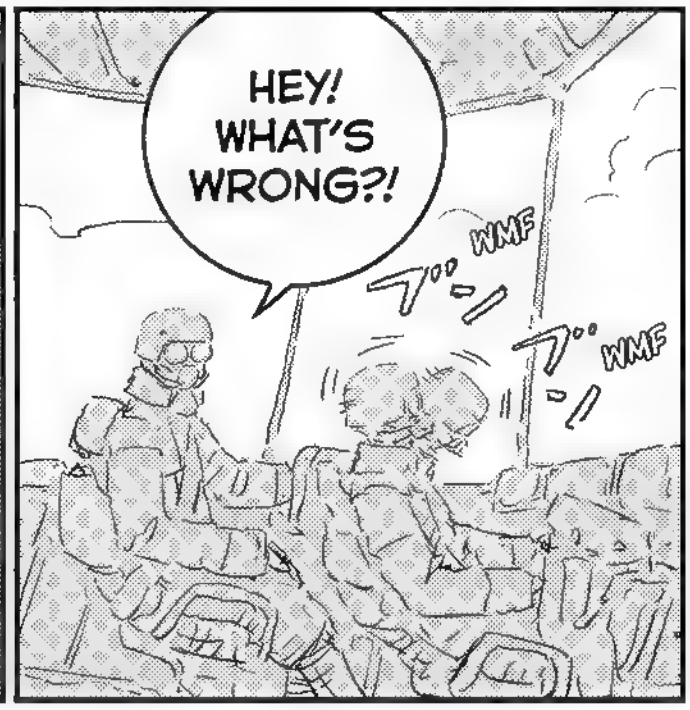

THERE. LOOK AT THE AF-FLICTED.

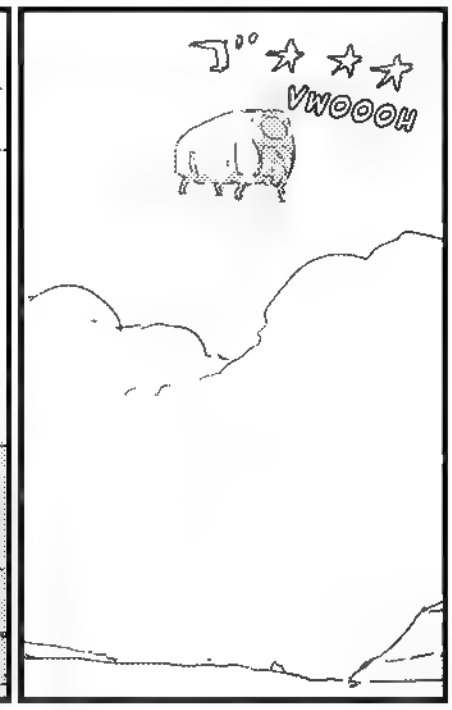

THAT CREST!

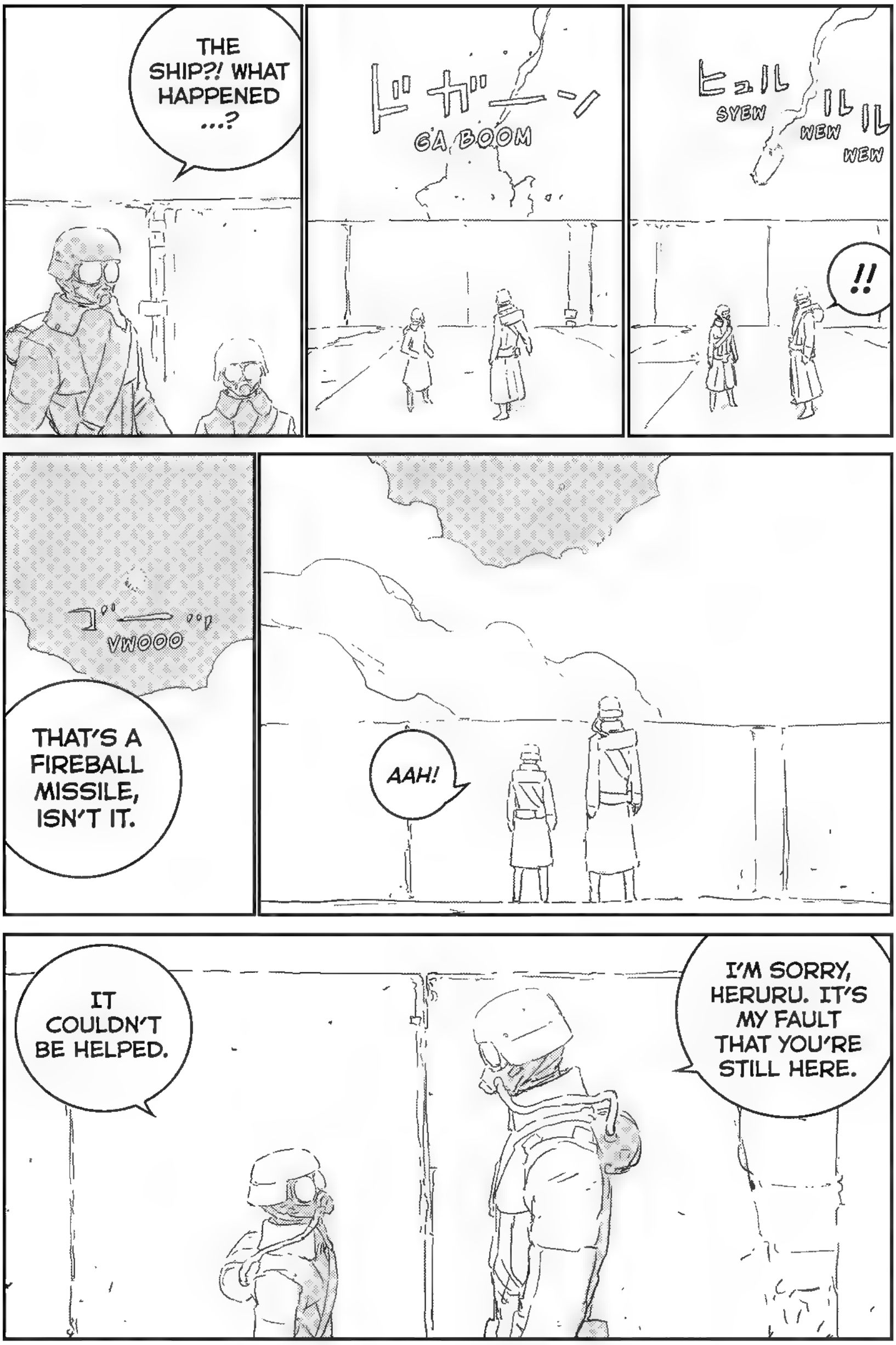


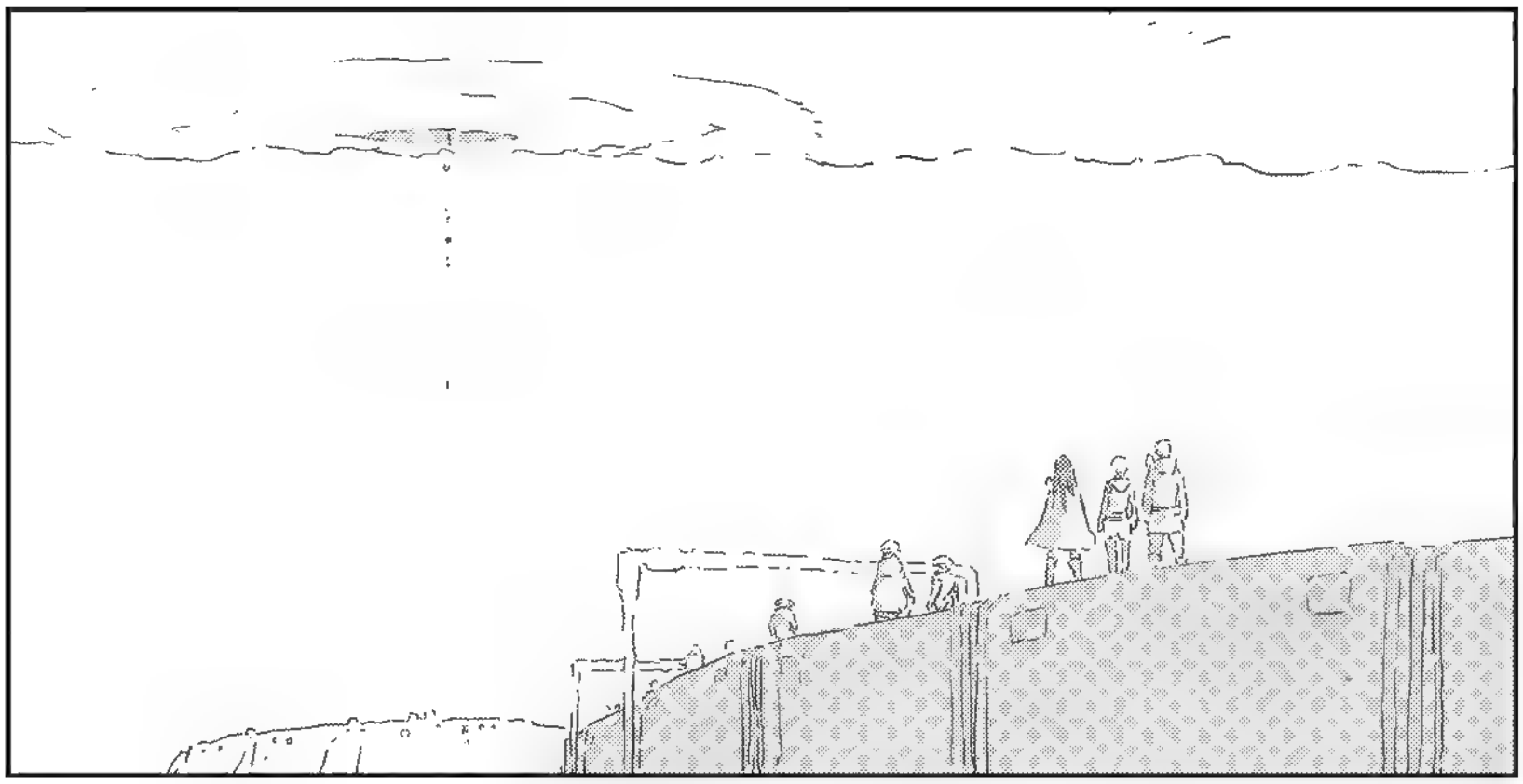
THERE'S SOMEONE ON ITS HAND!

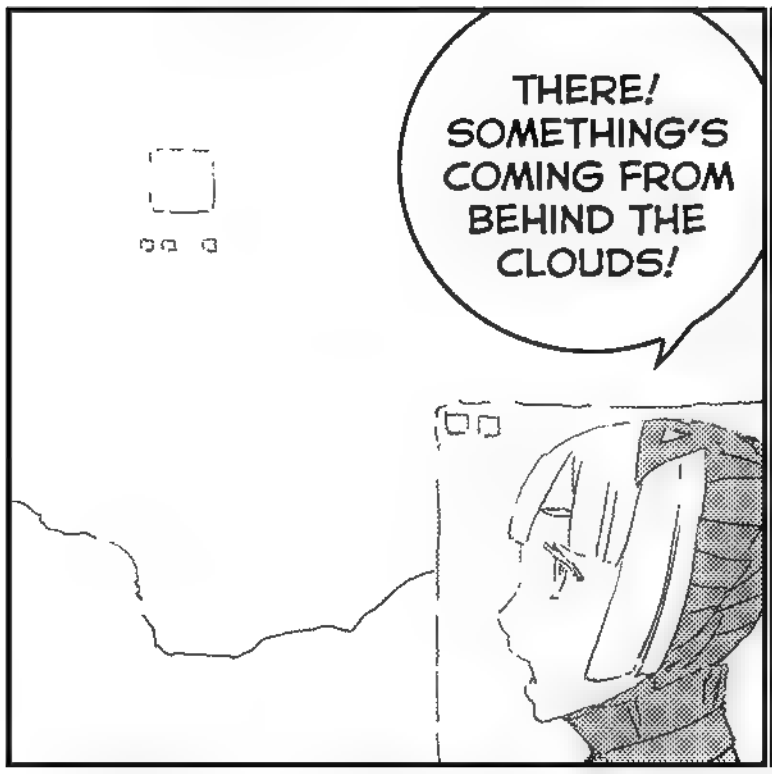

HE'S INFECTED !


HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?!
WMF
WMF

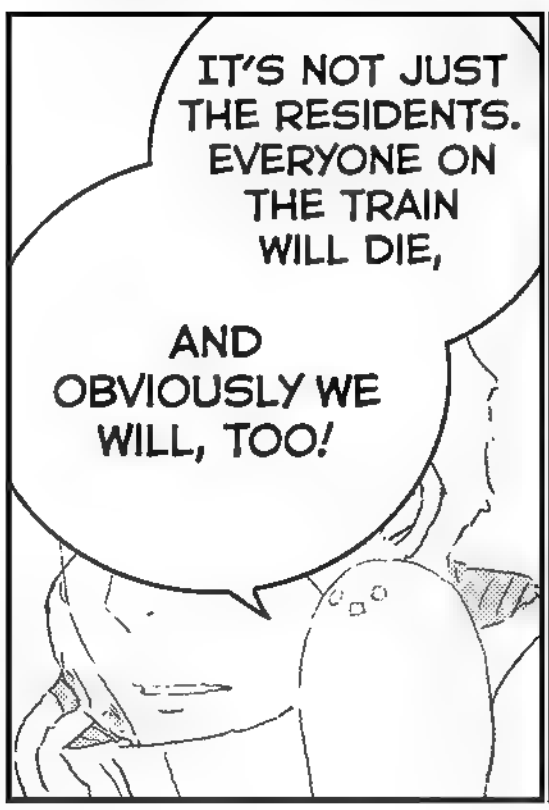

VWOOOH

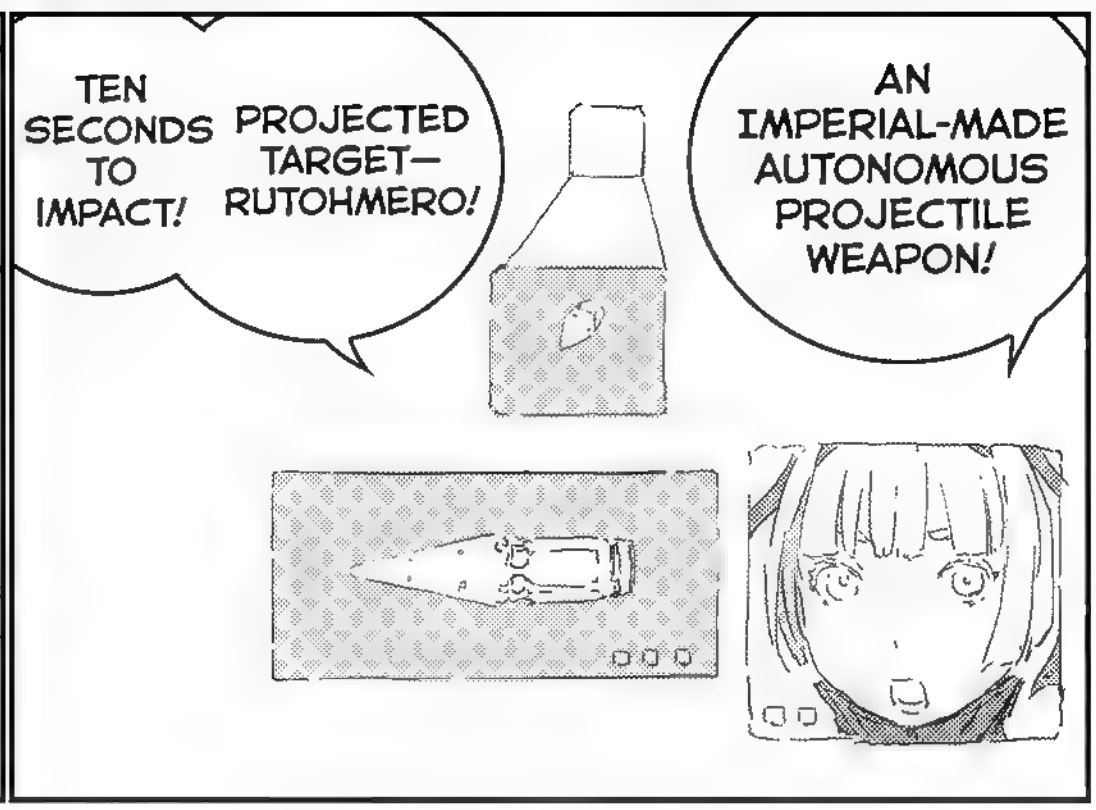

THE SHIP?! WHAT HAPPENED ...?
ドカーン
GA BOOM
ヒュル
SYEW
ル
WEW
ル
WEW
!!
VWOOO
THAT'S A FIREBALL MISSILE, ISN'T IT.
AAH!
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
I'M SORRY, HERURU. IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU'RE STILL HERE.

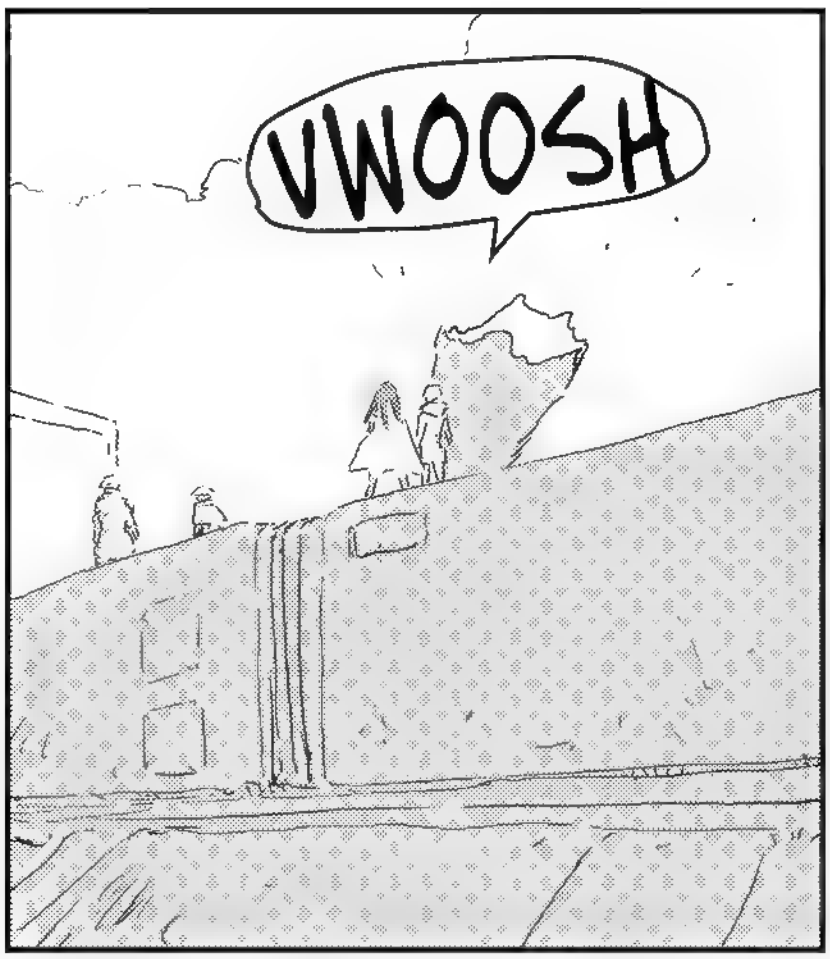



THERE! SOMETHING'S COMING FROM BEHIND THE CLOUDS!

!!

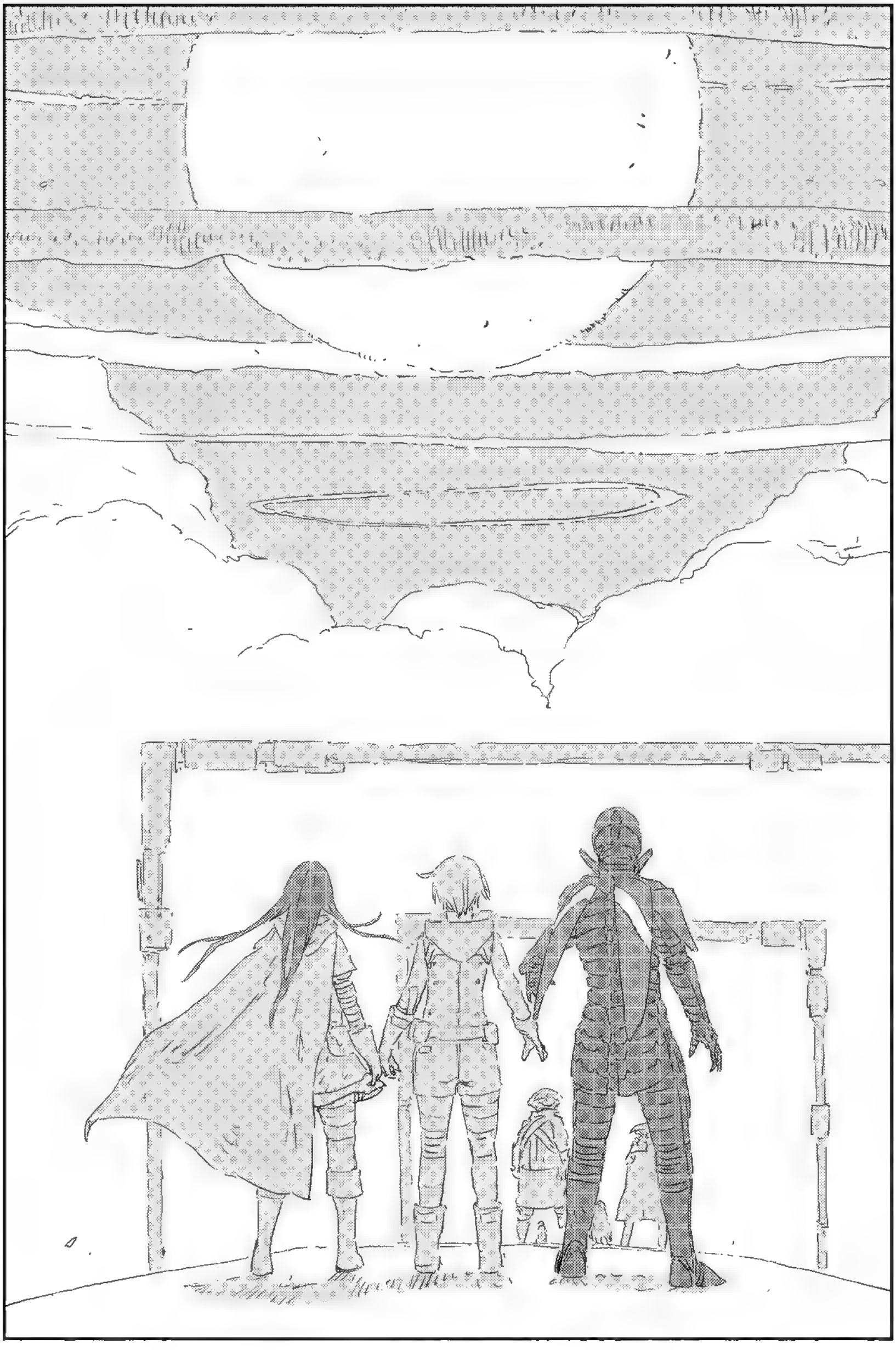

IT'S NOT JUST THE RESIDENTS. EVERYONE ON THE TRAIN WILL DIE,
AND OBVIOUSLY WE WILL, TOO!


TEN SECONDS TO IMPACT!
PROJECTED TARGET— RUTOHMERO!
AN IMPERIAL-MADE AUTONOMOUS PROJECTILE WEAPON!

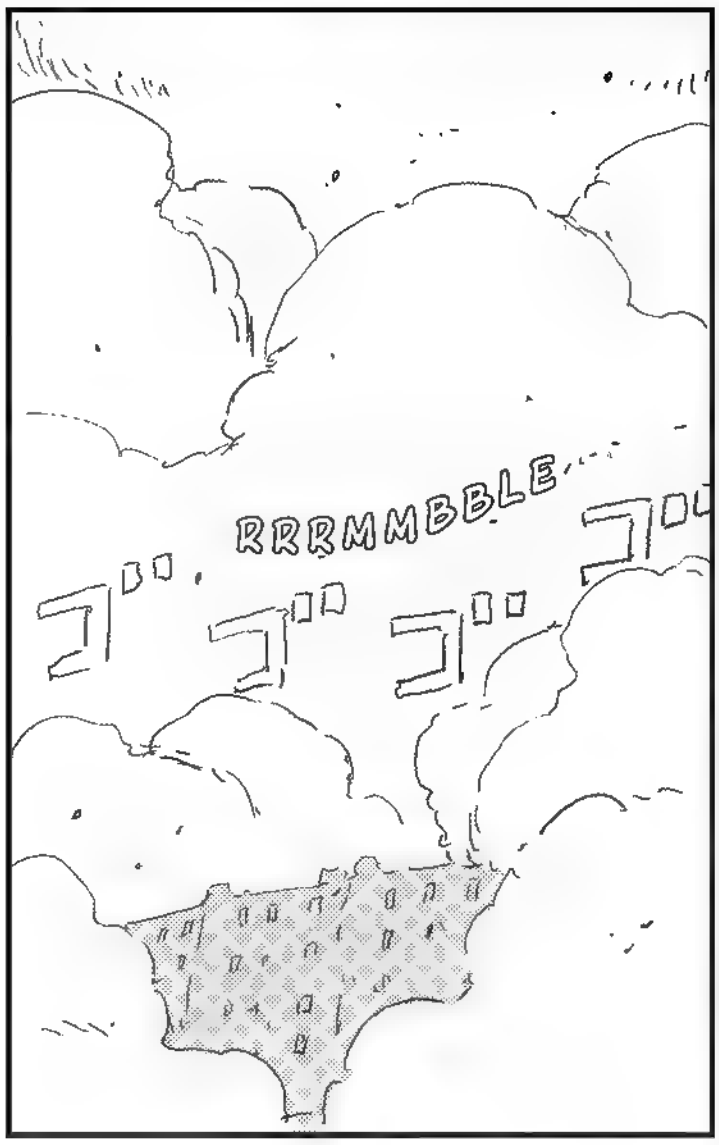

VWOOSH

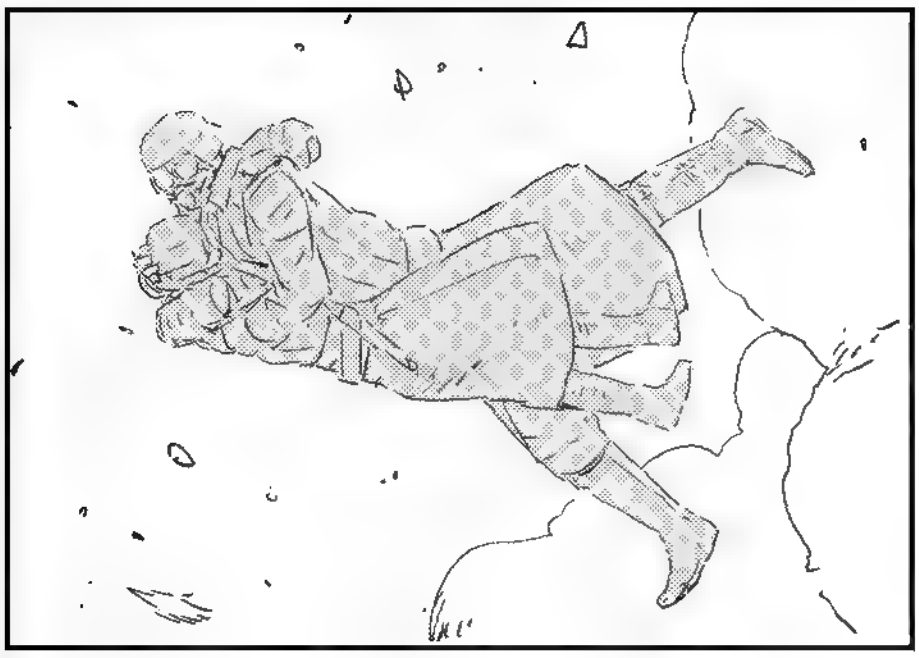
HUH
?!!

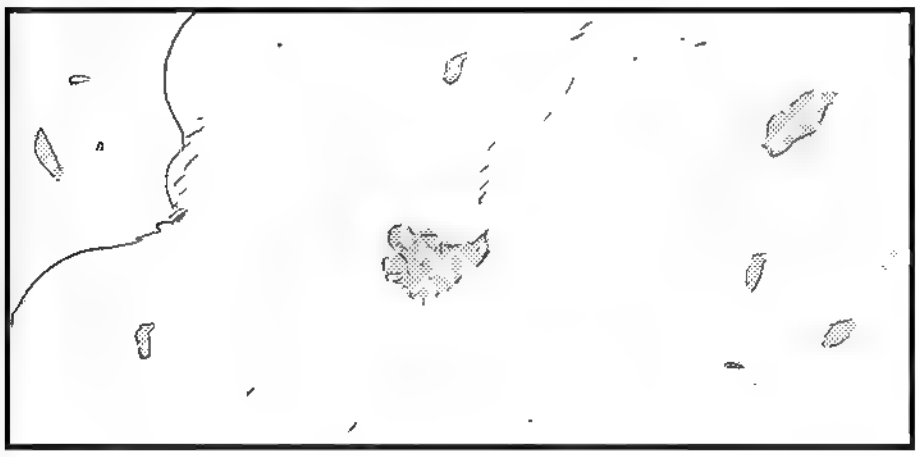
KWEEH
BOOM

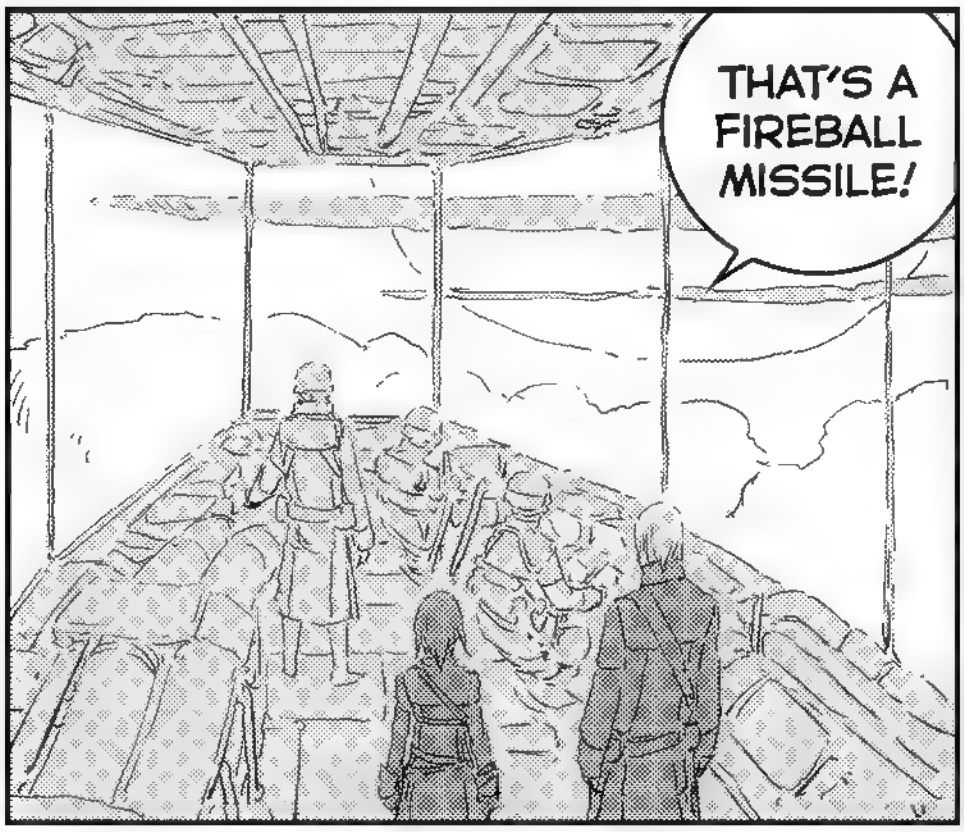


WHOOOAAA !!

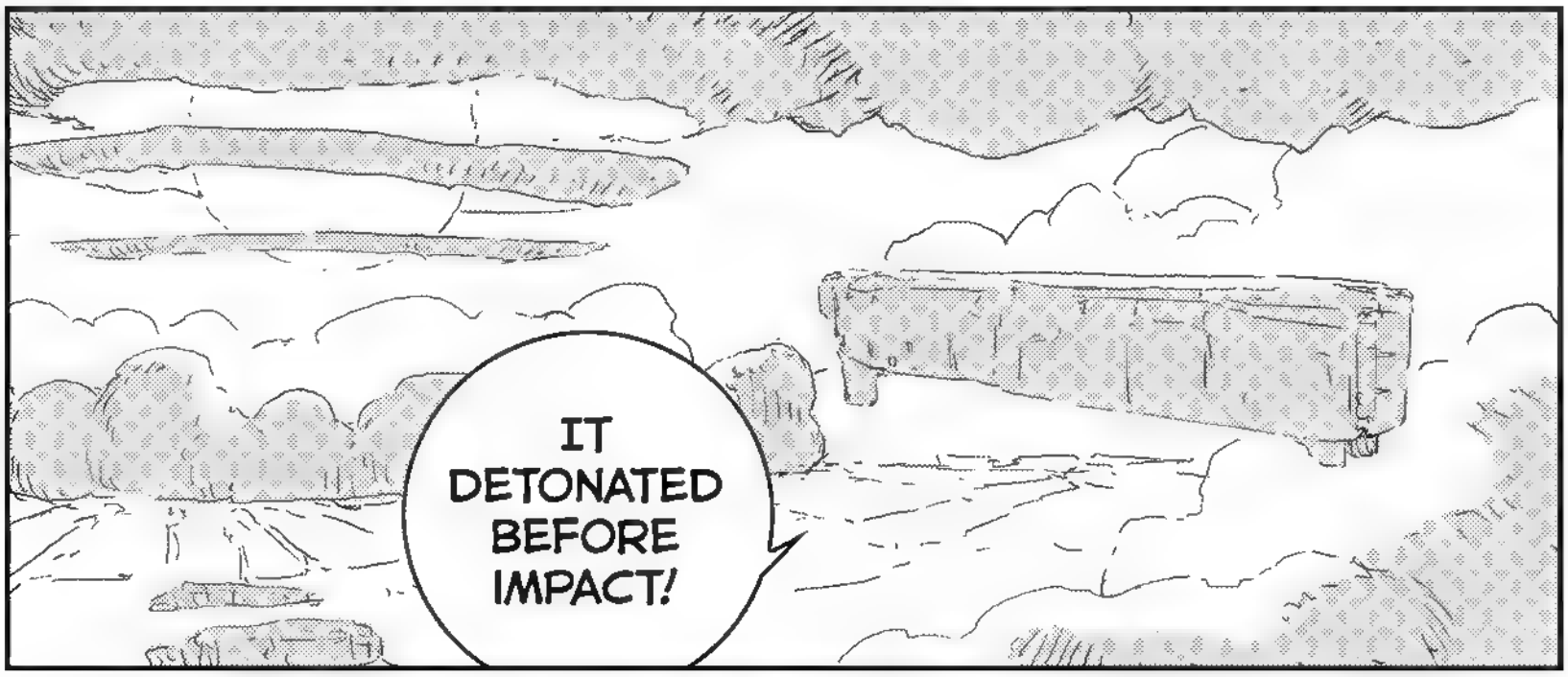




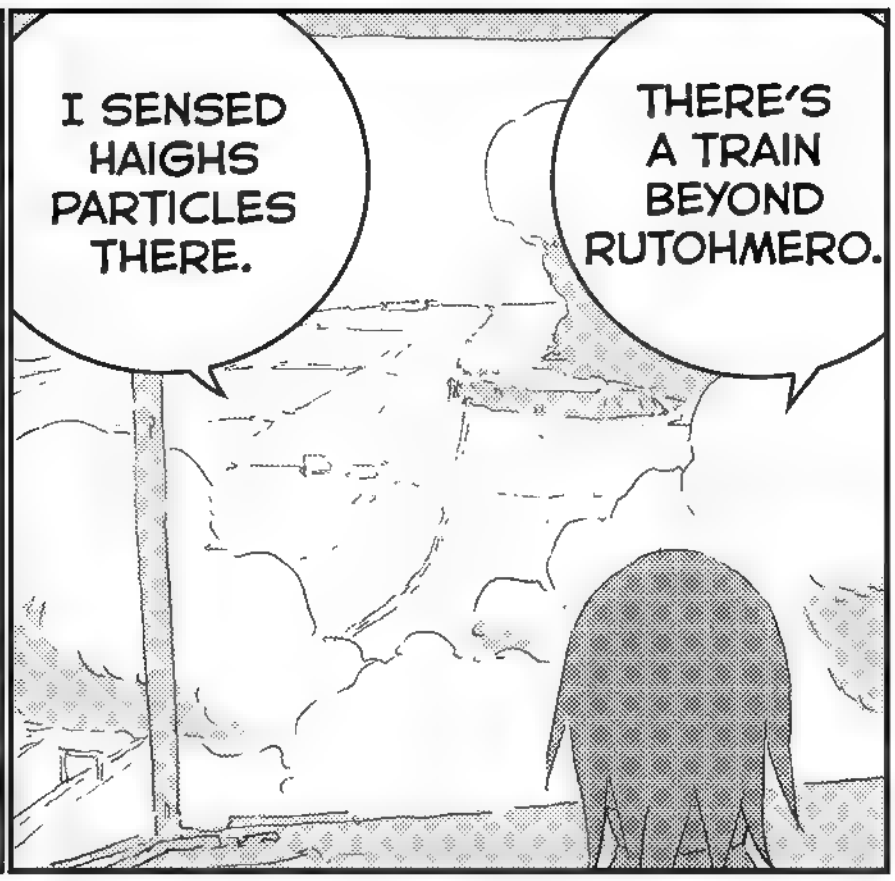


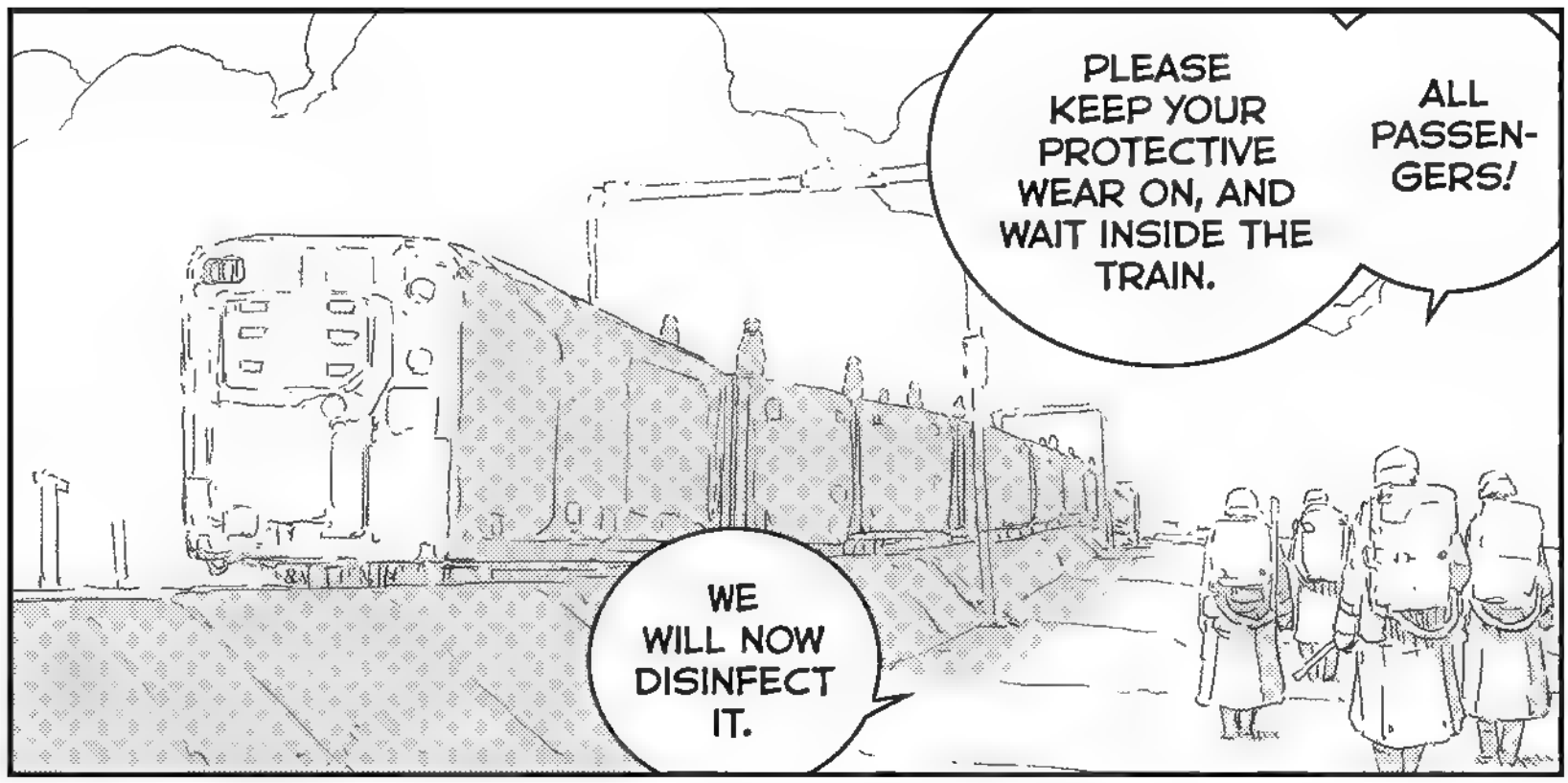

THAT'S A FIREBALL MISSILE!

!!
KSHK

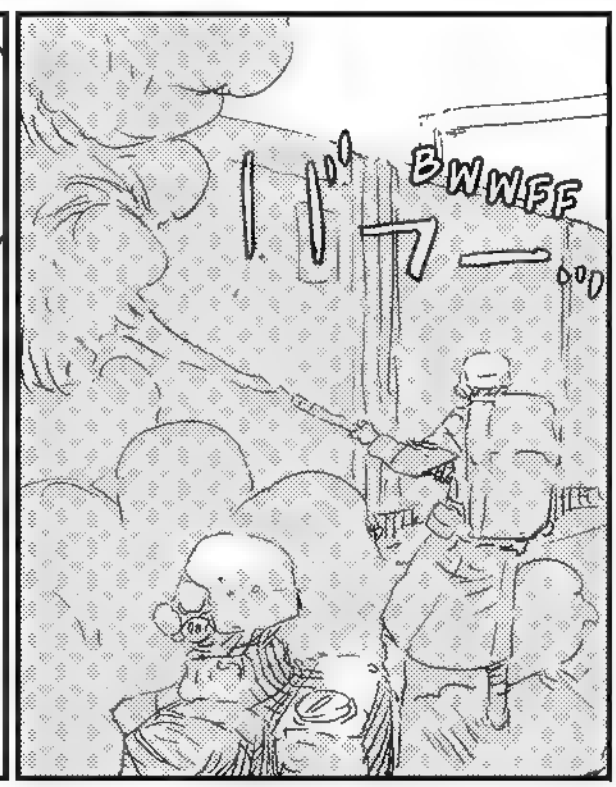

IT DETONATED BEFORE IMPACT!

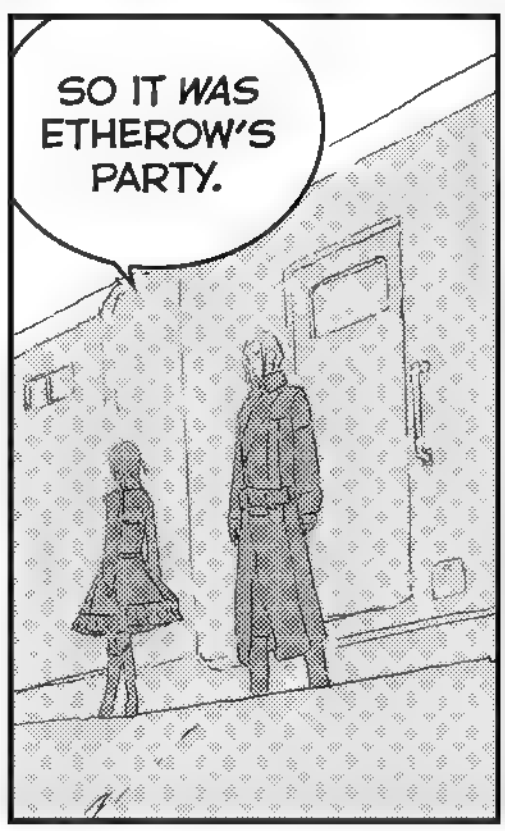
AN EBTG COULD SHOOT DOWN A FIREBALL MISSILE.
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THEM AGAIN?!

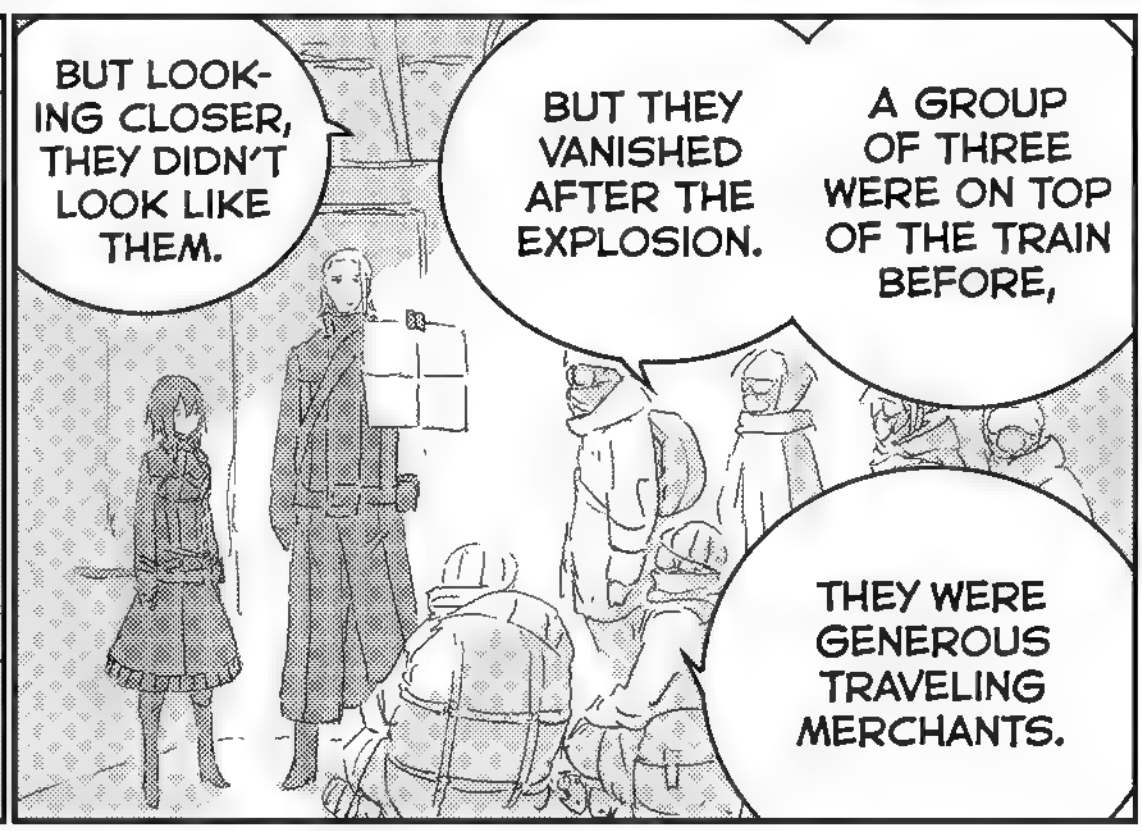

I SENSED HAIGHS PARTICLES THERE.
THERE'S A TRAIN BEYOND RUTOHMERO.

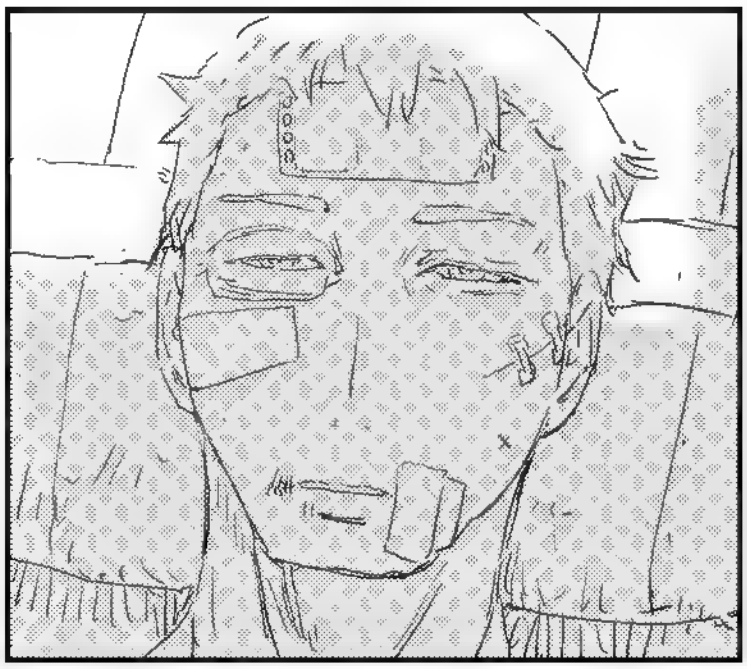

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PROTECTIVE WEAR ON, AND WAIT INSIDE THE TRAIN.
ALL PASSEN-GERS!
WE WILL NOW DISINFECT IT.

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE PEOPLE?

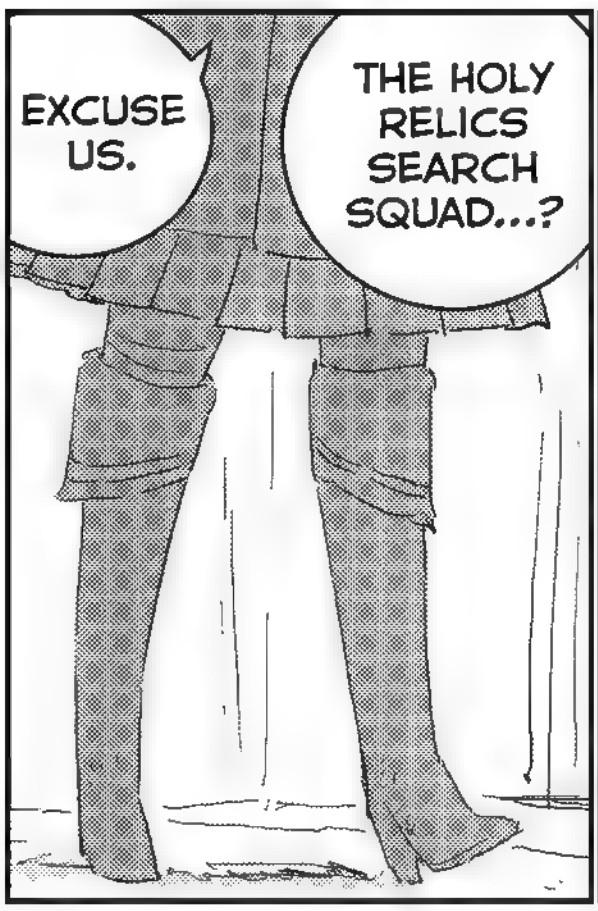

BWWFF


SO IT WAS ETHEROW'S PARTY.


BUT LOOK-ING CLOSER, THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE THEM.
BUT THEY VANISHED AFTER THE EXPLOSION.
A GROUP OF THREE WERE ON TOP OF THE TRAIN BEFORE,
THEY WERE GENEROUS TRAVELING MERCHANTS.



TERUNIHI!
HERURU!


EXCUSE US.
THE HOLY RELICS SEARCH SQUAD...?

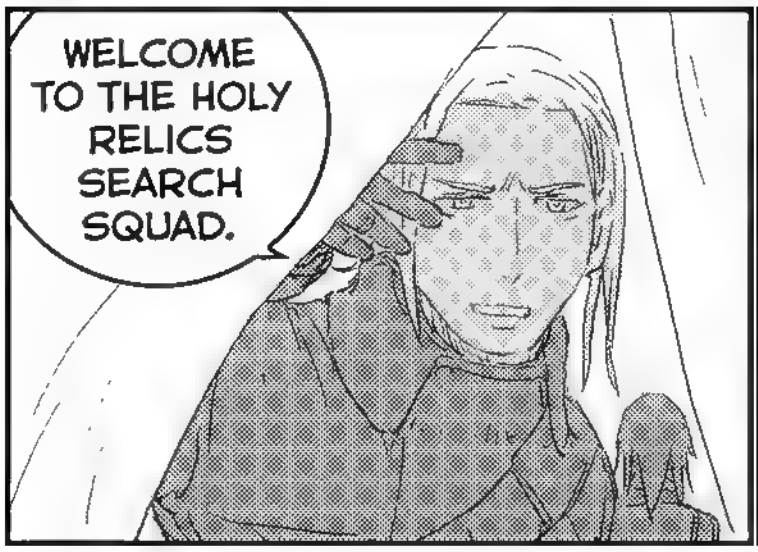
THE HOLY RELICS SEARCH SQUAD CAME FLYING IN AND SAVED US!
YES!
WE SURVIVED ?!
YOWCH !

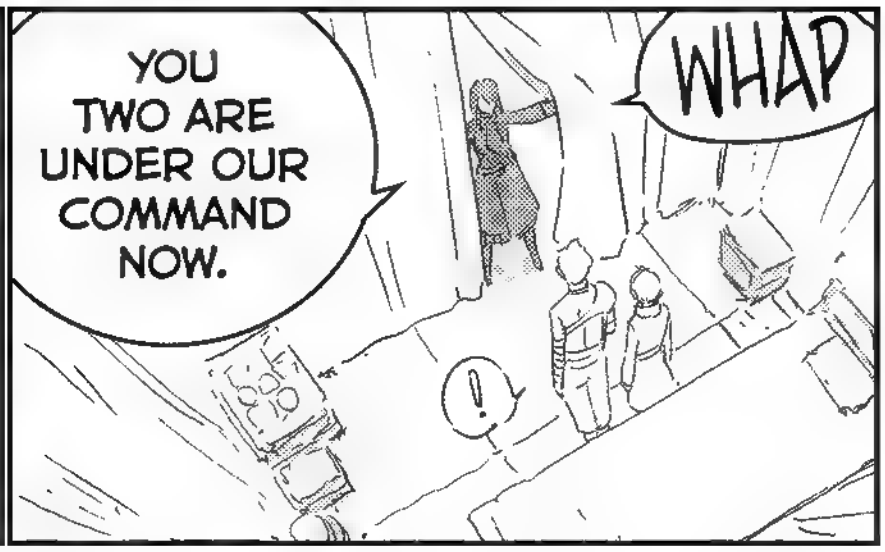
B-BRIGADIER GENERAL!
YOU CAN SEE A REGEN-ERATED, TOO!
THIS IS A PICTURE I TOOK.
AND THEY VANISHED INTO THE SKY ALL AT ONCE!
AND, UH, THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY BY A GIANT FRAME,
A-A-ALMOST EVERYONE WAS INFECTED,
RUTOHMERO IS COMPLETELY DESERTED. WHY?
WE NEED TO STOP THEM AT THE BORDER.
TO THINK THEY'VE WEAPONIZED FRAME DISEASE...
IT'S THE TRUE CORE CHURCH, ISN'T IT.

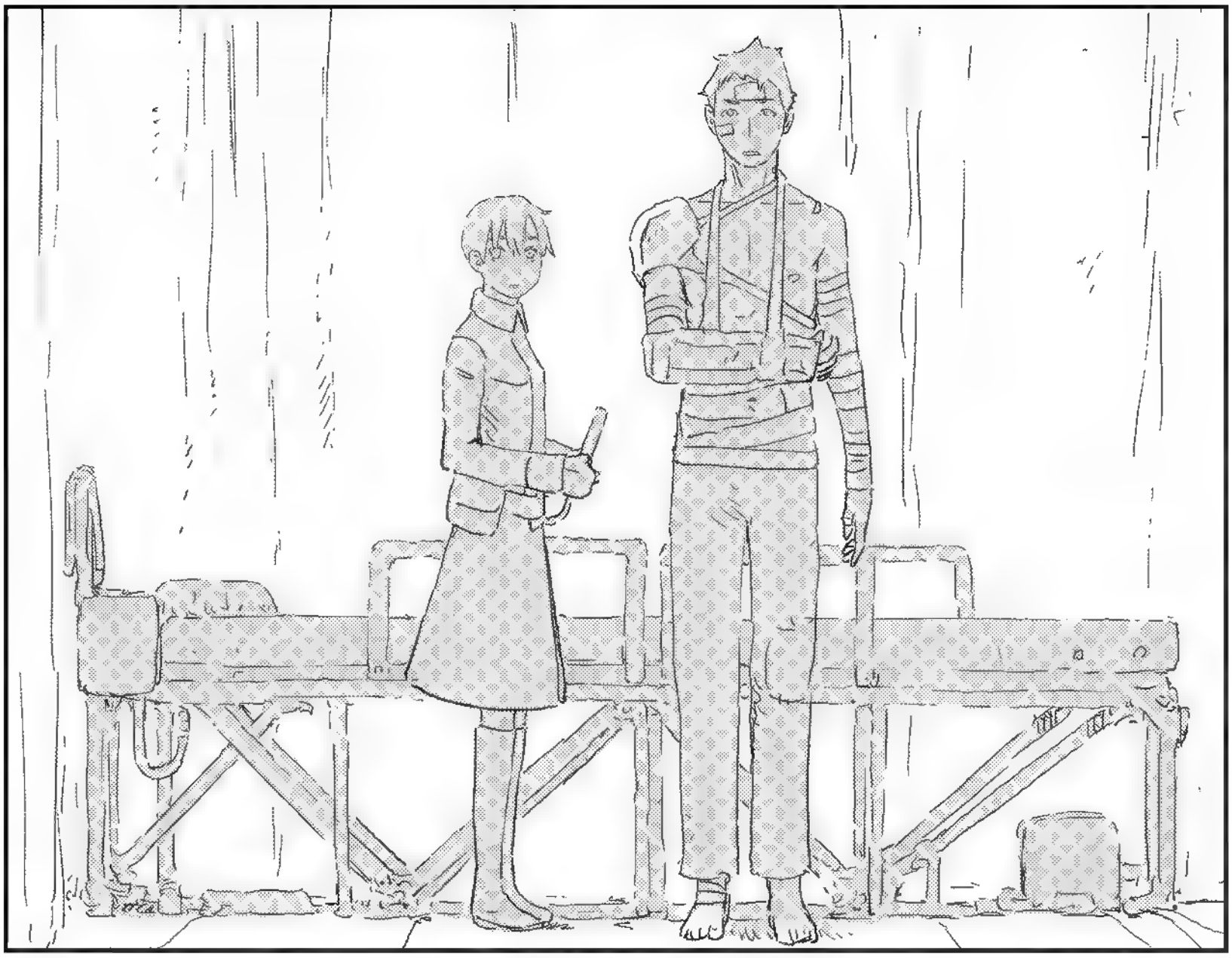
EVEN THEN, WE'RE SHORT-HANDED...

DISEASE CONTROL IS A MILITARY DUTY. WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN WHILE WE RECOVER THE AMBS AT THE SAME TIME.

AND GET BACK TO OUR MISSION.
LET'S CONTACT HQ


WELCOME TO THE HOLY RELICS SEARCH SQUAD.


YOU TWO ARE UNDER OUR COMMAND NOW.
WHAP
!



WAS IT THE WORK OF THE TRUE CORE CHURCH?

IT WAS A FRAME DISEASE OUTBREAK.

DID ALL OF THE RESIDENTS BECOME INFECTED?

THERE WERE NO PEOPLE LEFT IN THAT TOWN...

IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO ASSUME SO.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, BROTHER ...?

IF THE OUTBREAK SPREADS ACROSS THE SURFACE, HUMANS WILL BE WIPED OUT.

WHAT A PRACTICAL FORM OF INVASION!

THE CHURCH IS GATHERING SUFFERERS, AND THE EMPIRE IS WEAKENING.

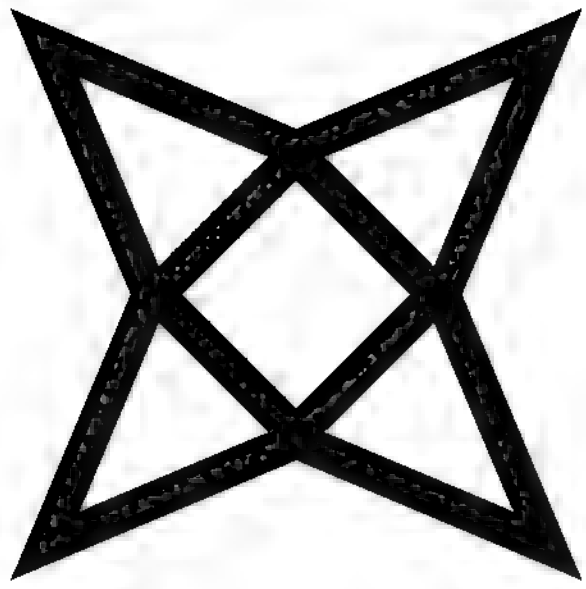
MORE UNKNOWNS TO WORK OUT, HUH...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING HOW THE OUTBREAK WAS CAUSED.

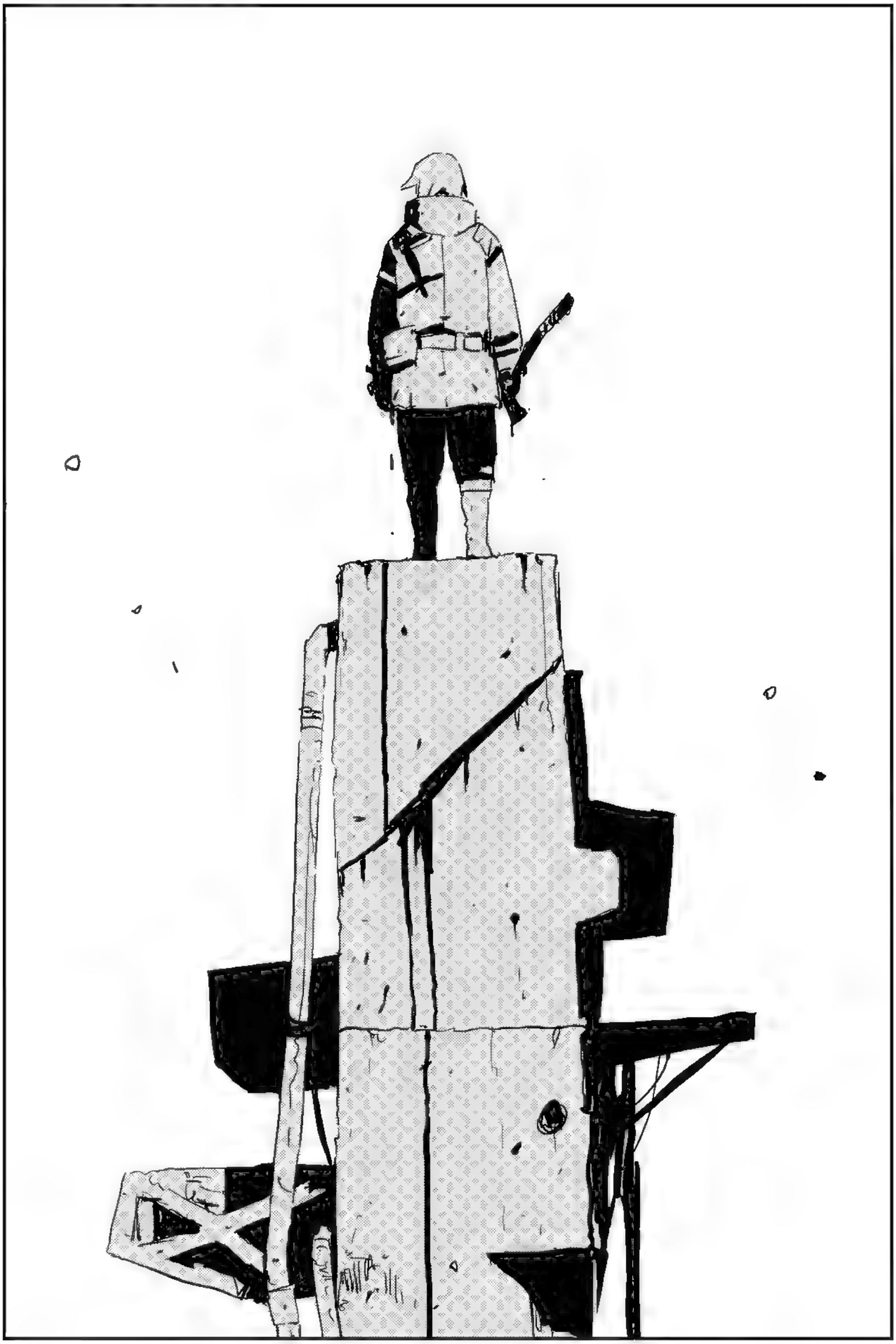
IS THERE NO WAY TO PREVENT IT, TITANIA?

CHAPTER 43 END

APOSIMZ



CHAPTER 44

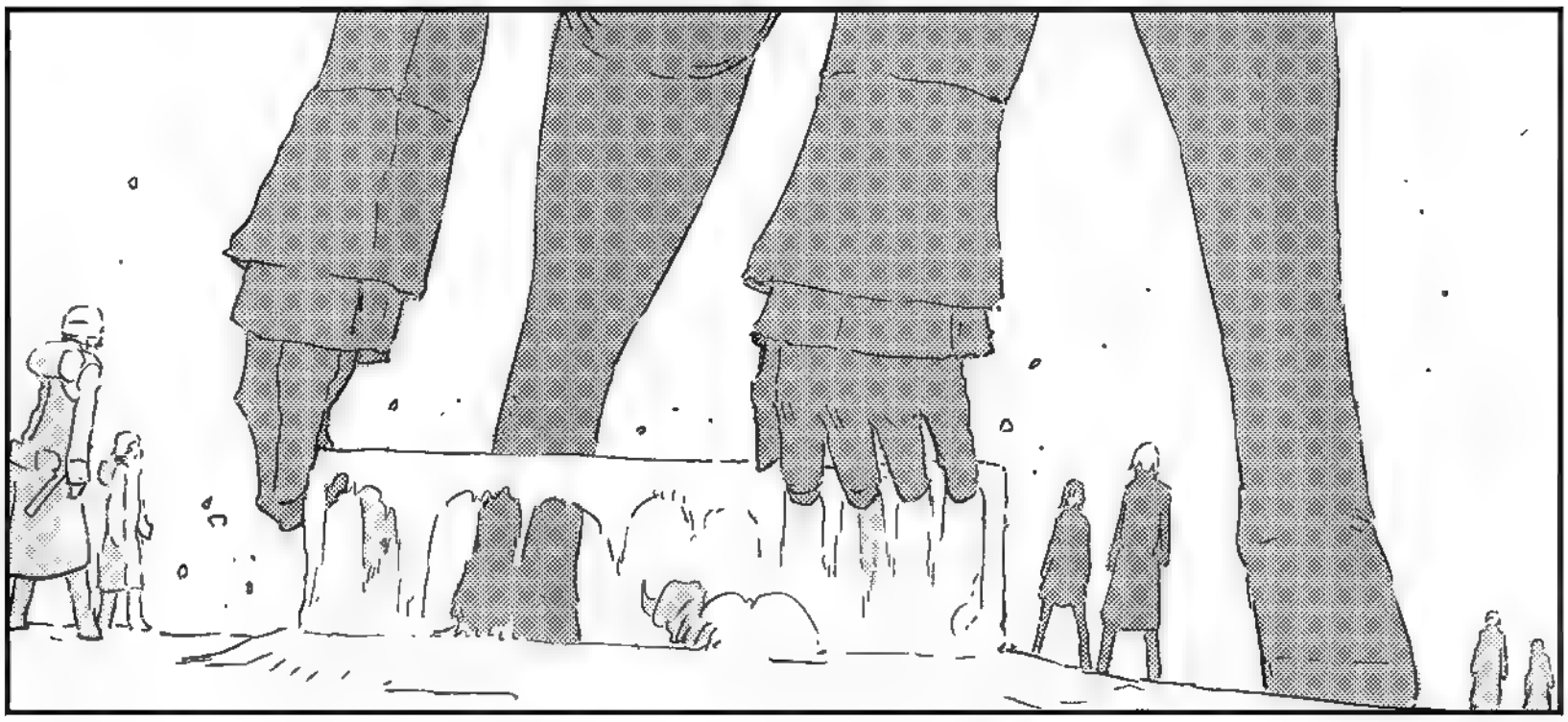


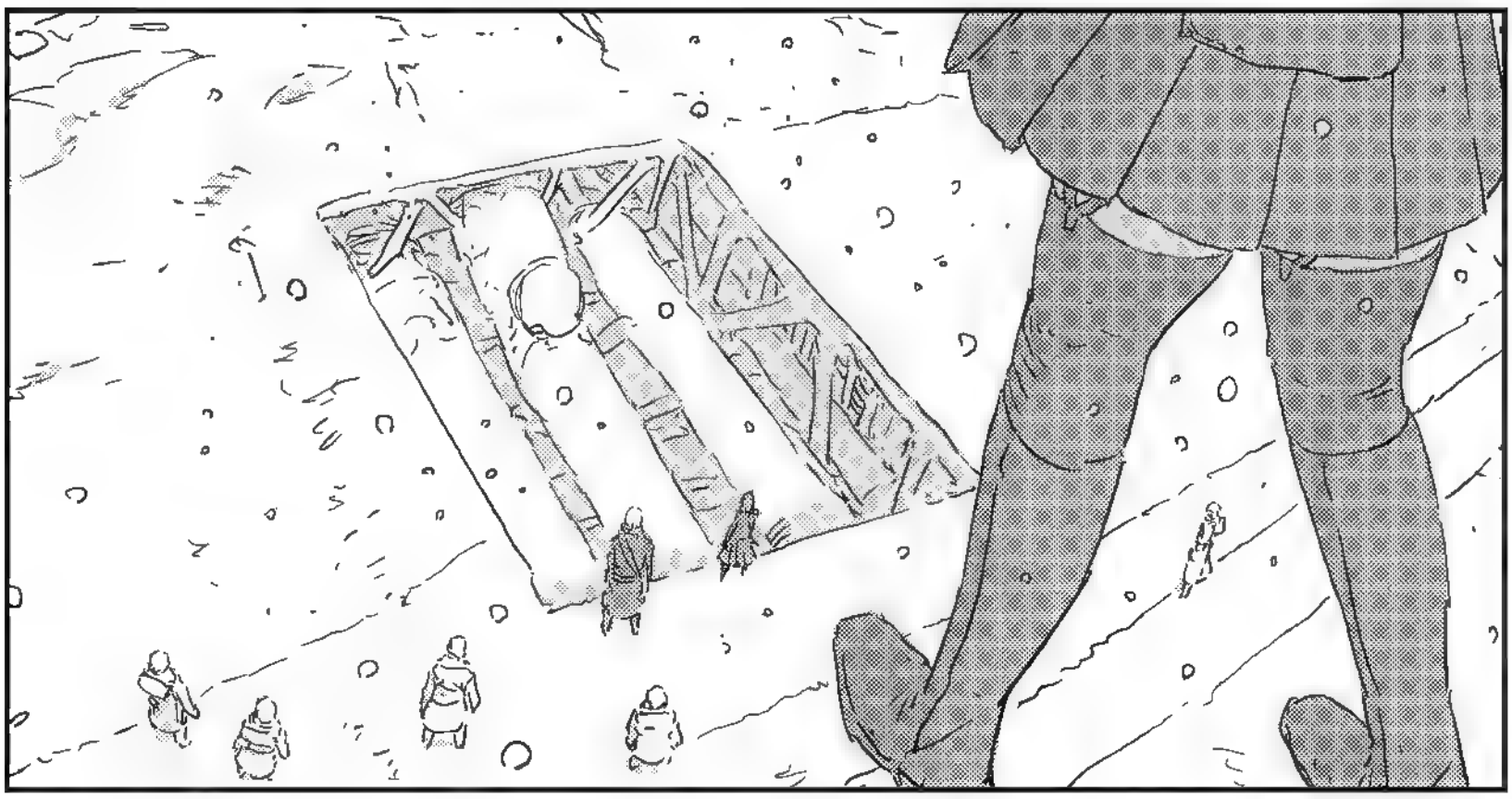
AJATE, PLEASE REMOVE THIS GROUND COVERING.

MISS JATE!
OKAY,

WHAT IS THAT PERSON?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT SHE'S PROBABLY NOT HUMAN.
SHE'S NOT WEARING A MASK.

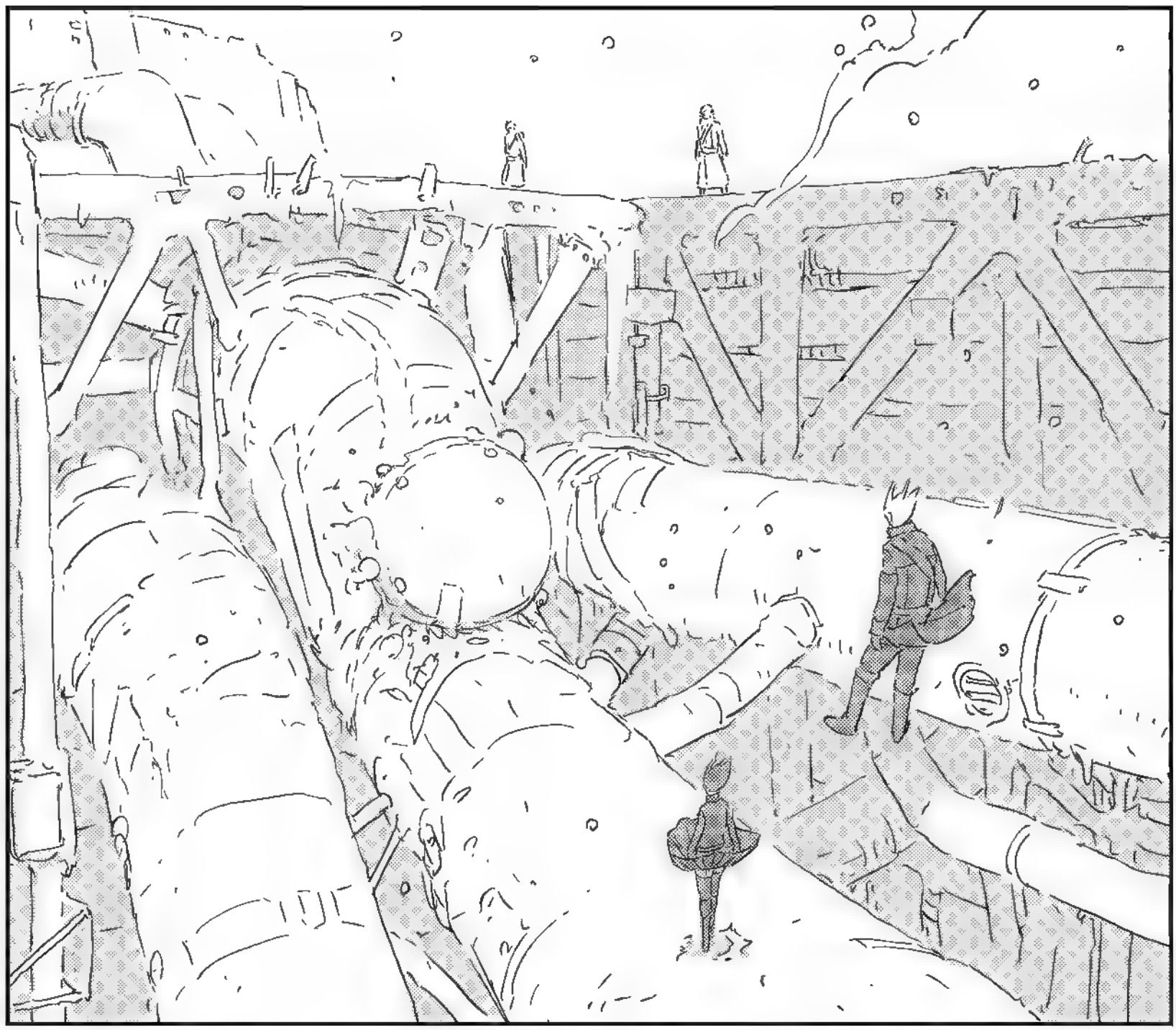
KREAK

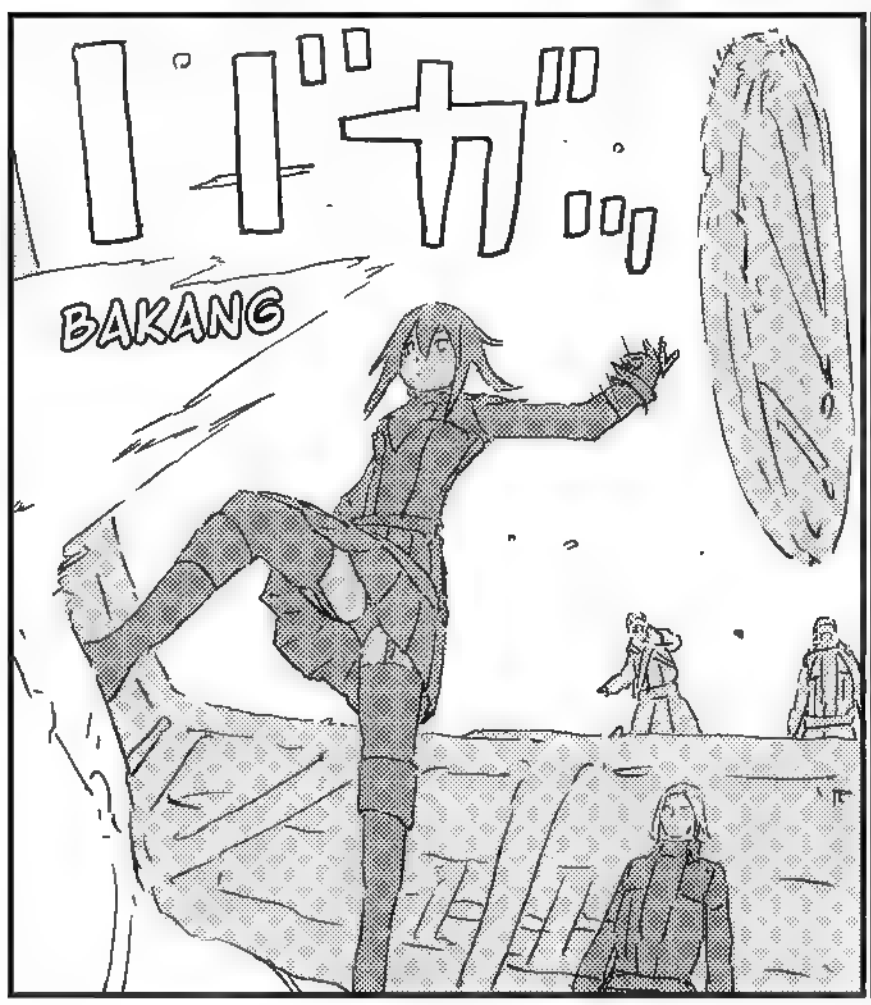


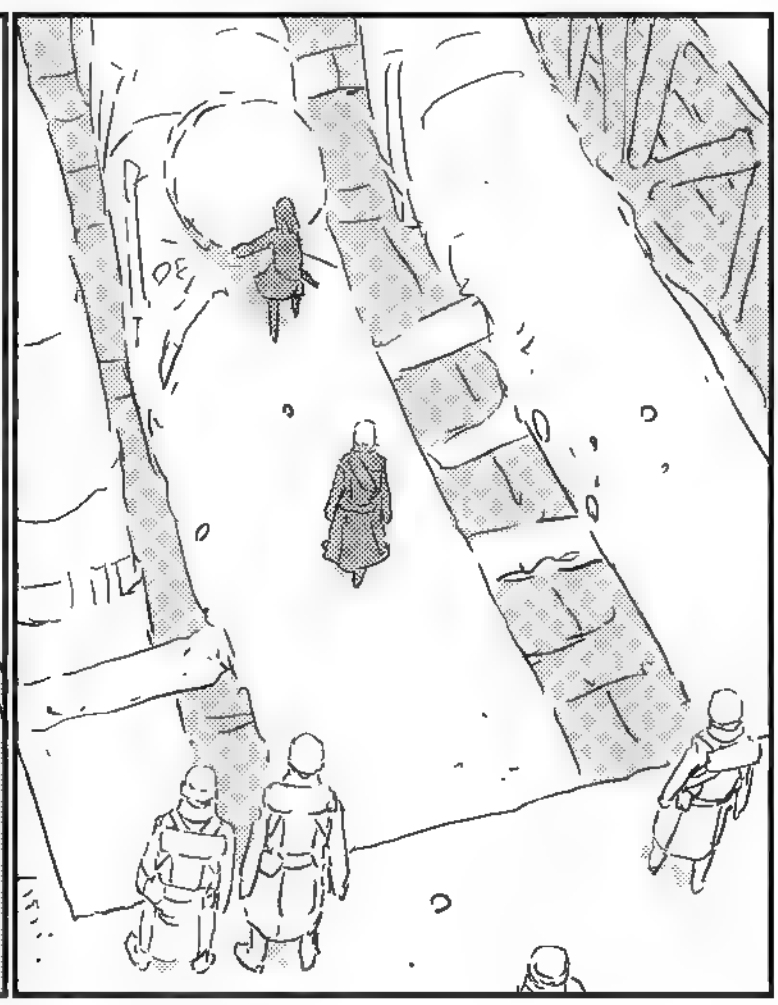


THOSE ARE THE MAIN AIR PIPES THAT GO INTO THE CITY!

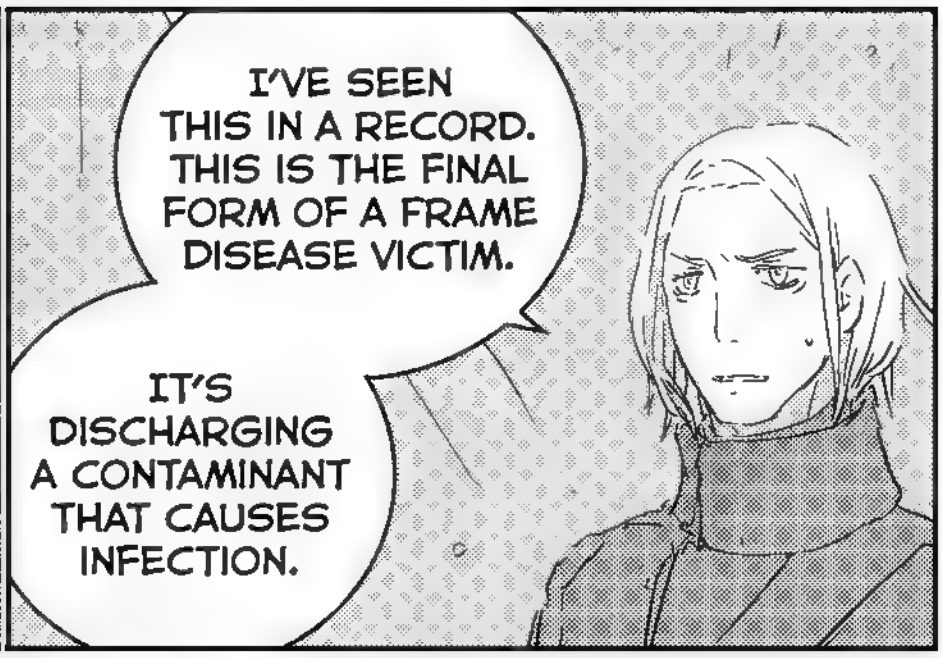
WHOA! CONTAMI-NANT!



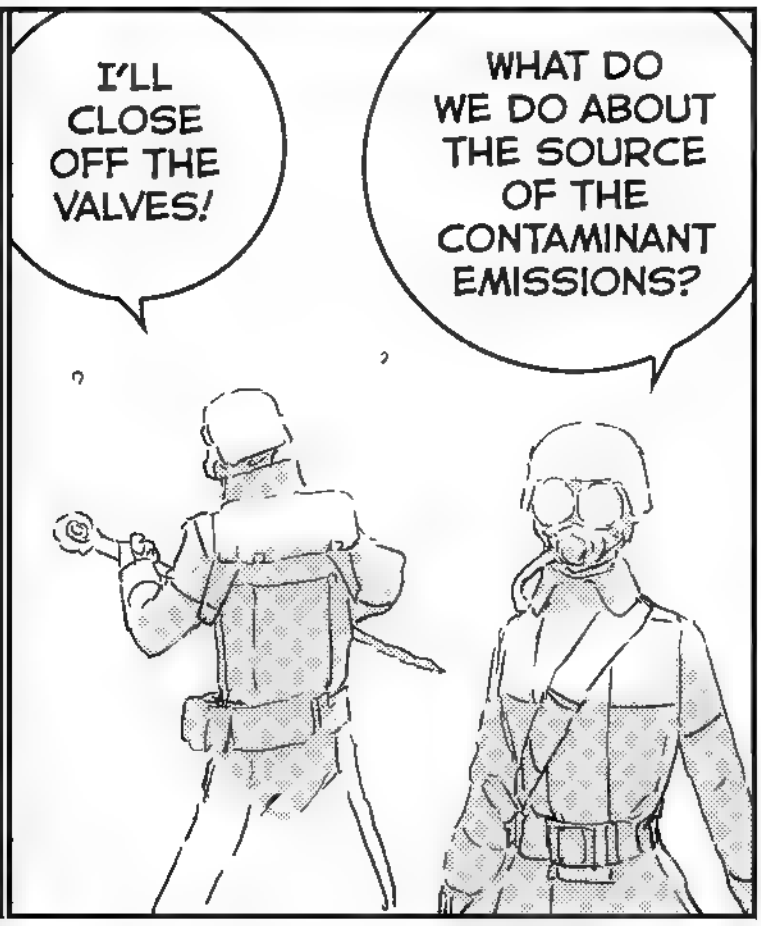

バガ…
BAKANG

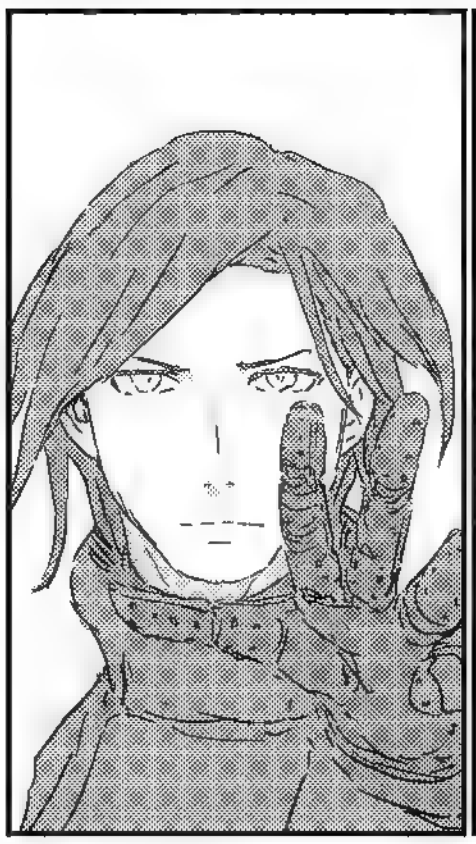


SEAL OFF ALL CONNECTED PIPES!


I'VE SEEN THIS IN A RECORD. THIS IS THE FINAL FORM OF A FRAME DISEASE VICTIM.
IT'S DISCHARGING A CONTAMINANT THAT CAUSES INFECTION.

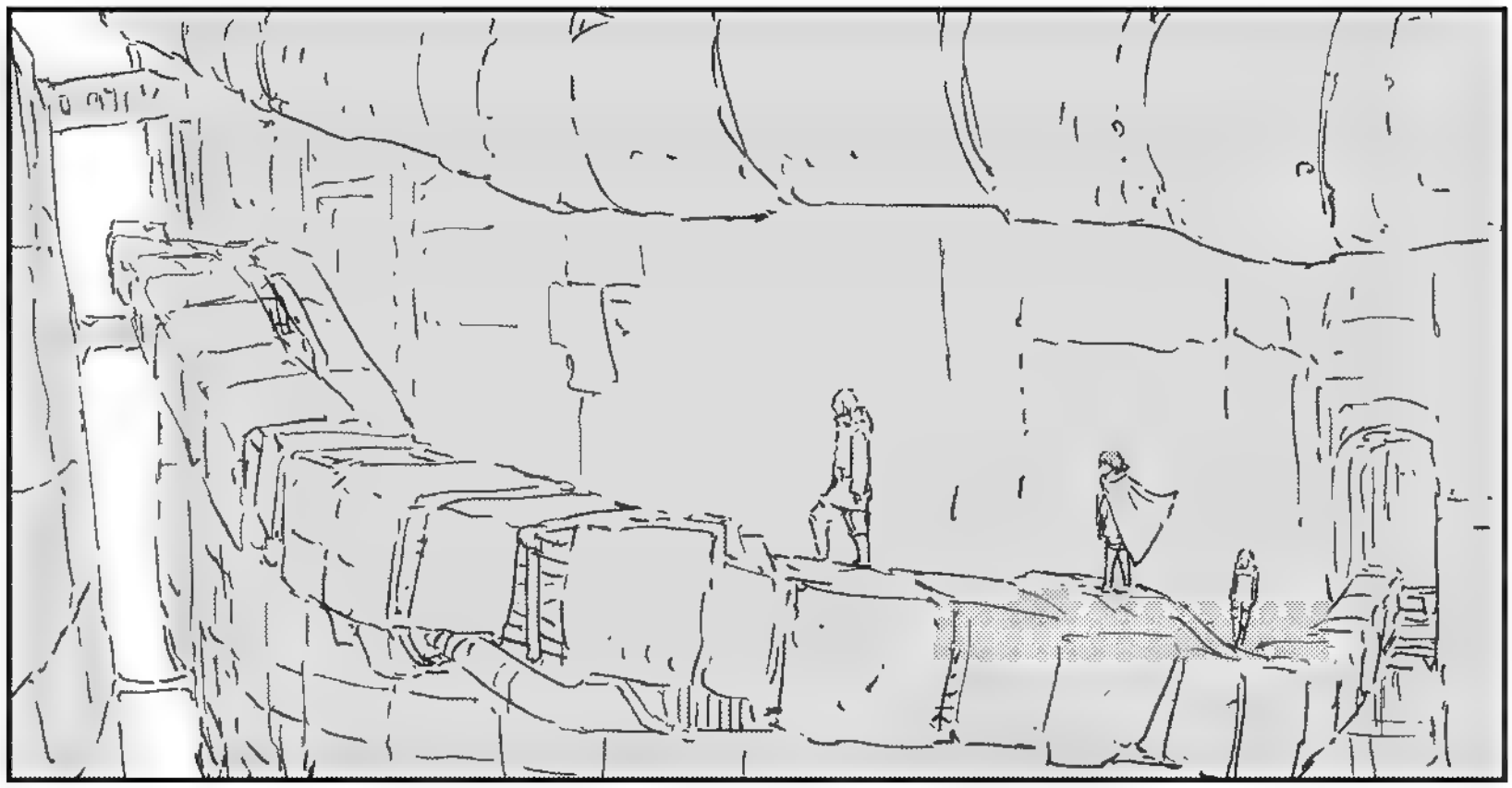
ピキキ
PAKRAK


I'LL CLOSE OFF THE VALVES!
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THE CONTAMINANT EMISSIONS?

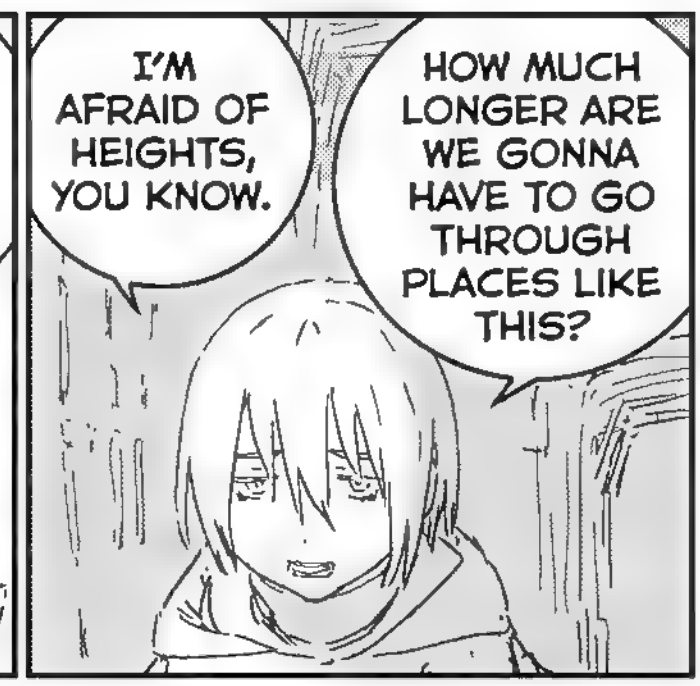


TOSU!

KRAK
ピキ
KWOOM

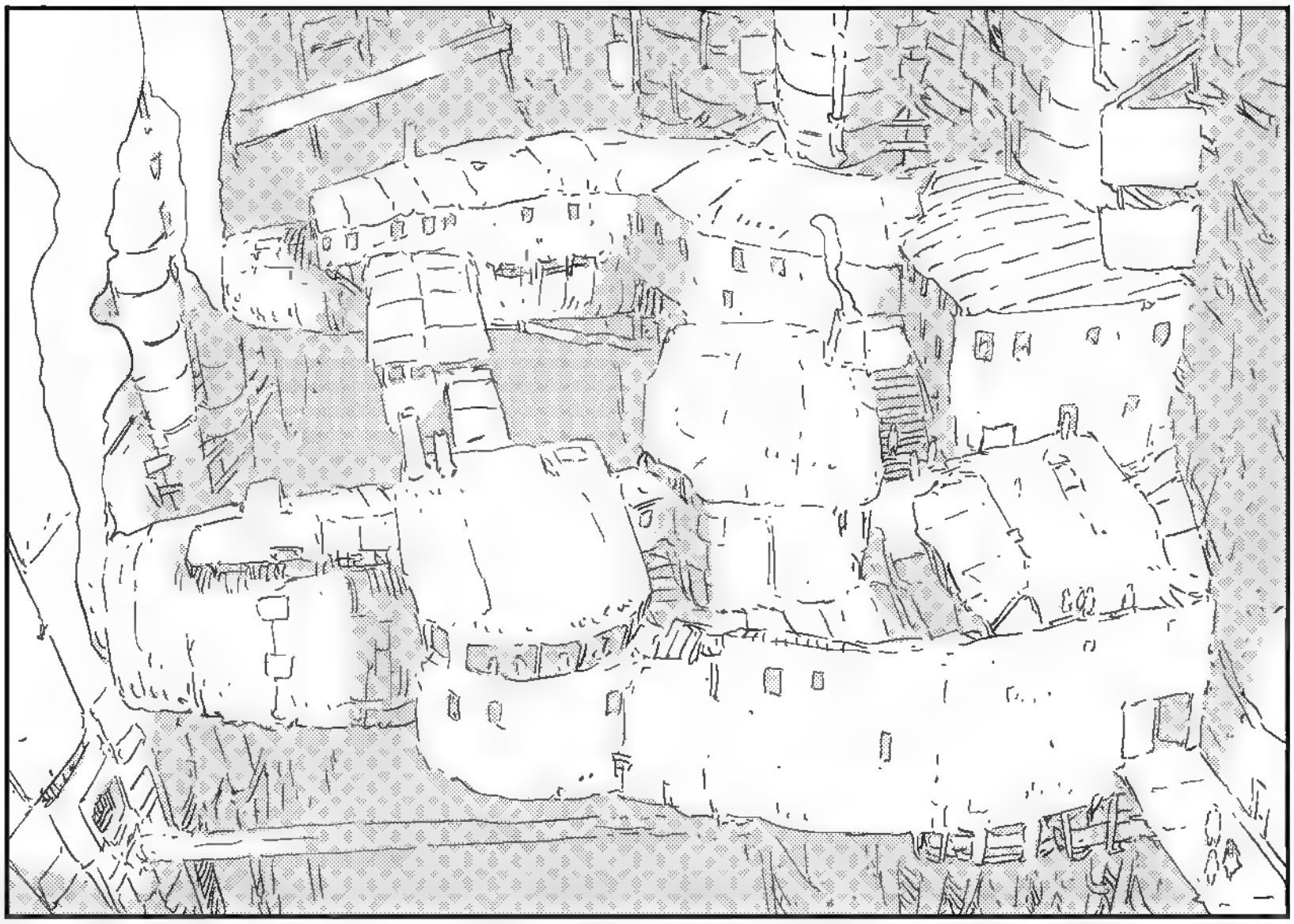


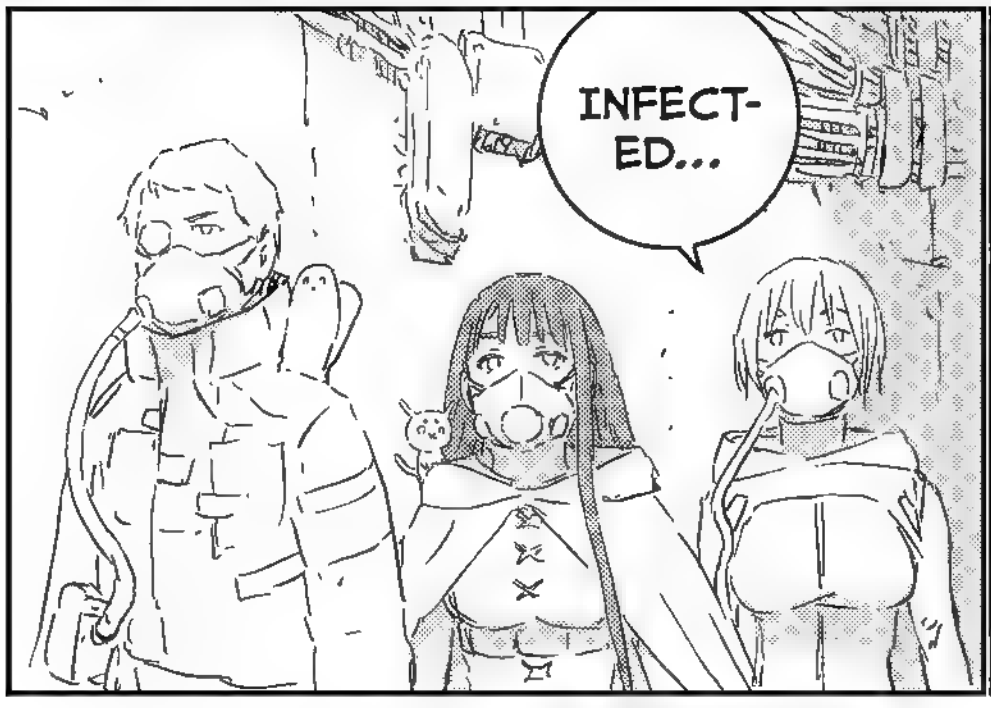
WE NEED TO BE INCON-SPICUOUS AGAIN FOR A WHILE.
IT'S PROBABLY GOTTEN OUT THAT WE WERE IN RUTOHMERO.

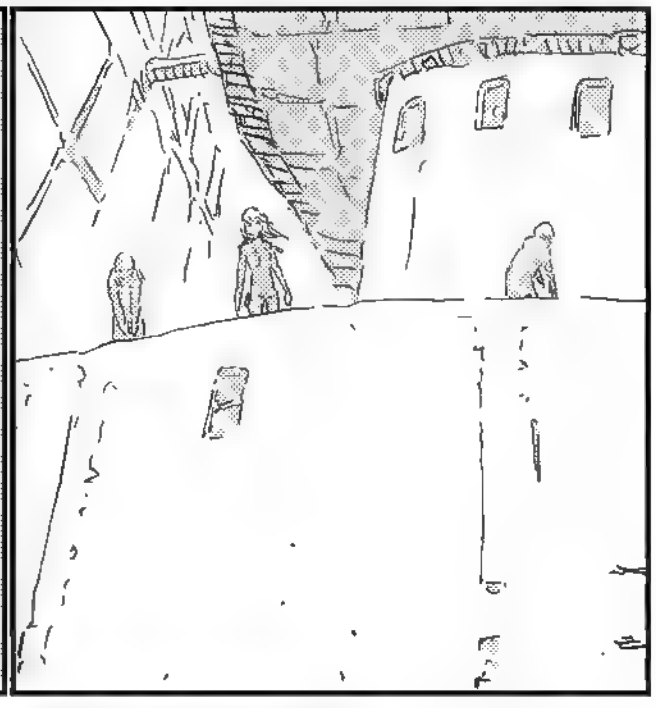

I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, YOU KNOW.
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE WE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH PLACES LIKE THIS?

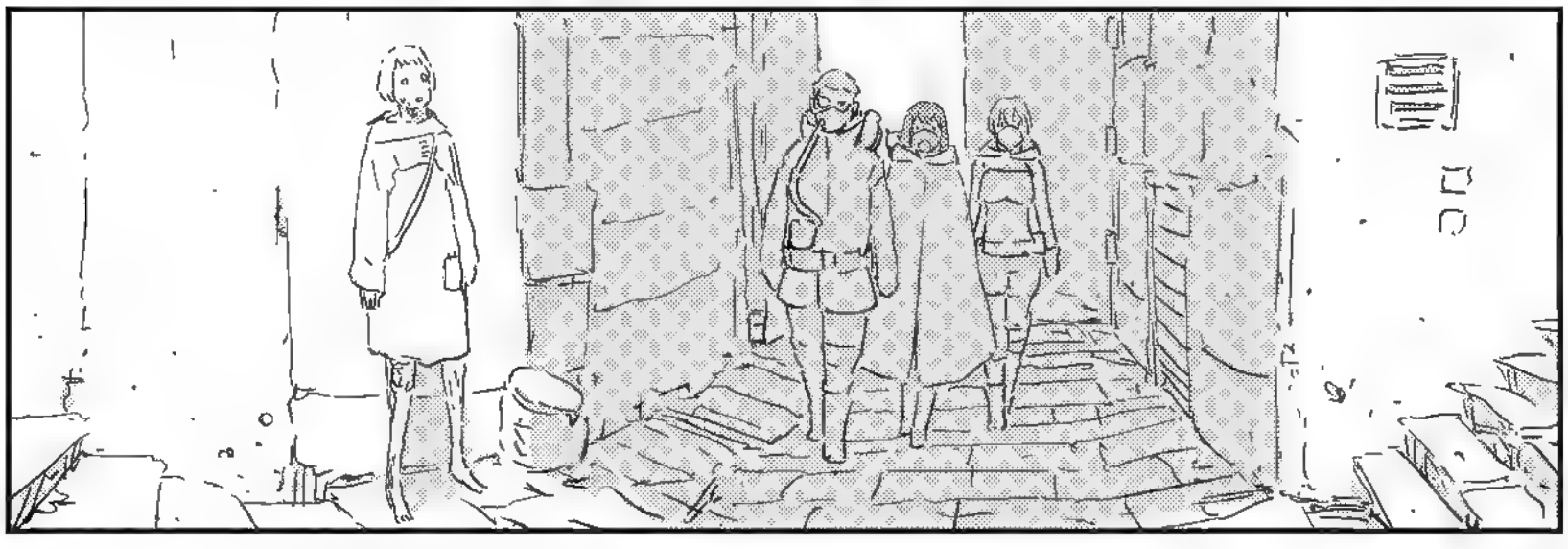
BETTER GET DISGUISED THEN!

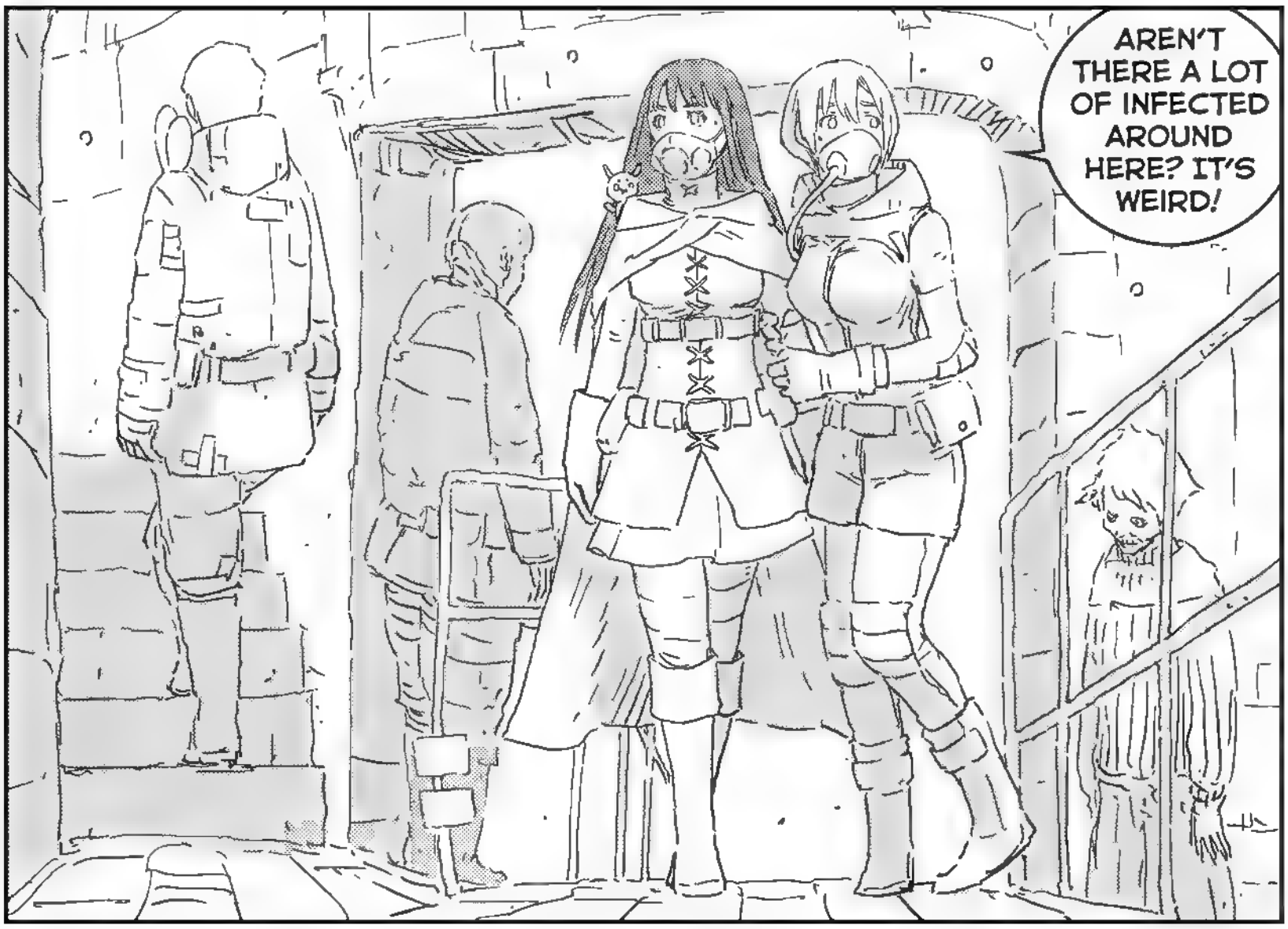
QUIET. A SETTLE-MENT.




INFECT-
ED...



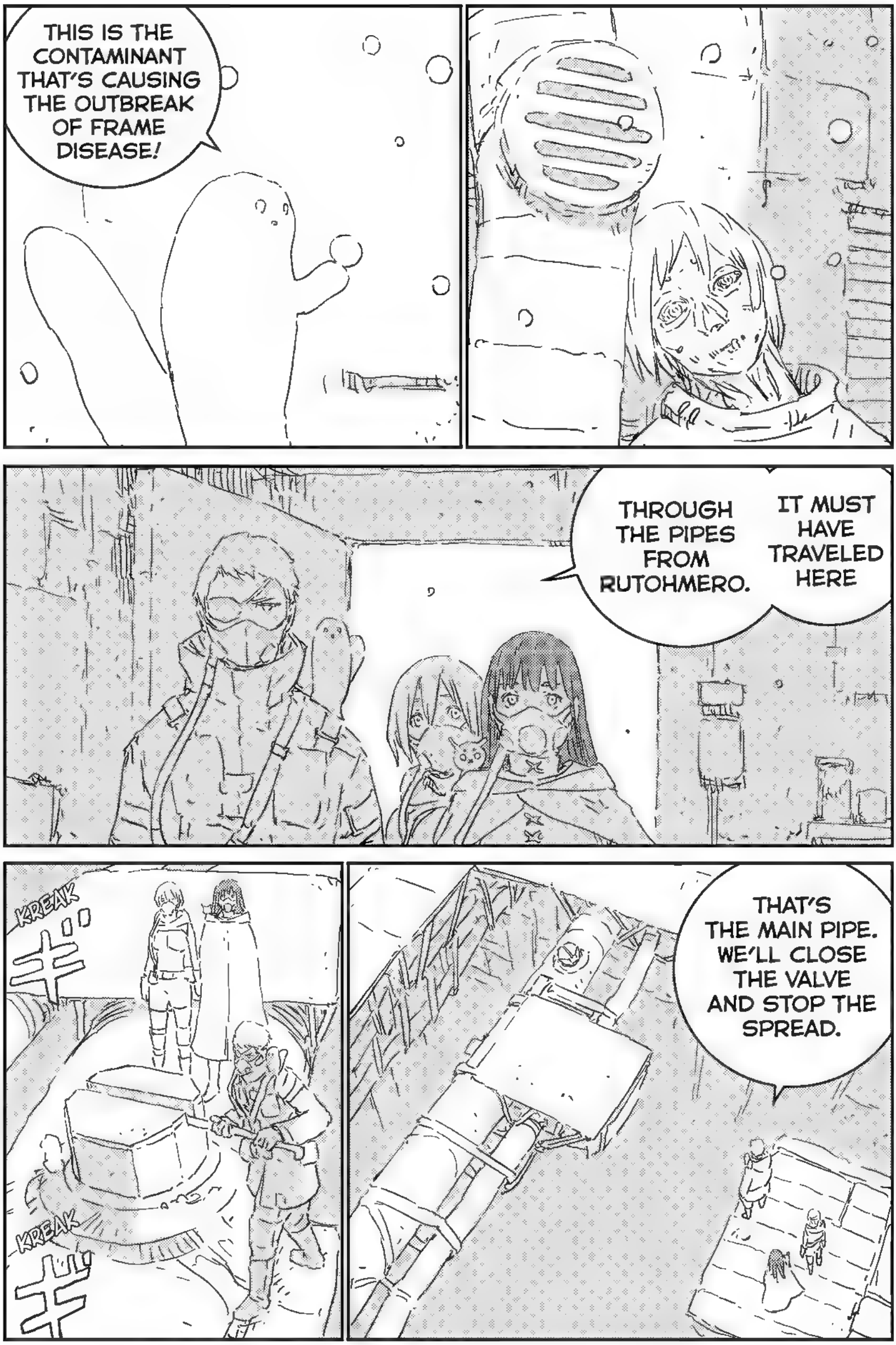


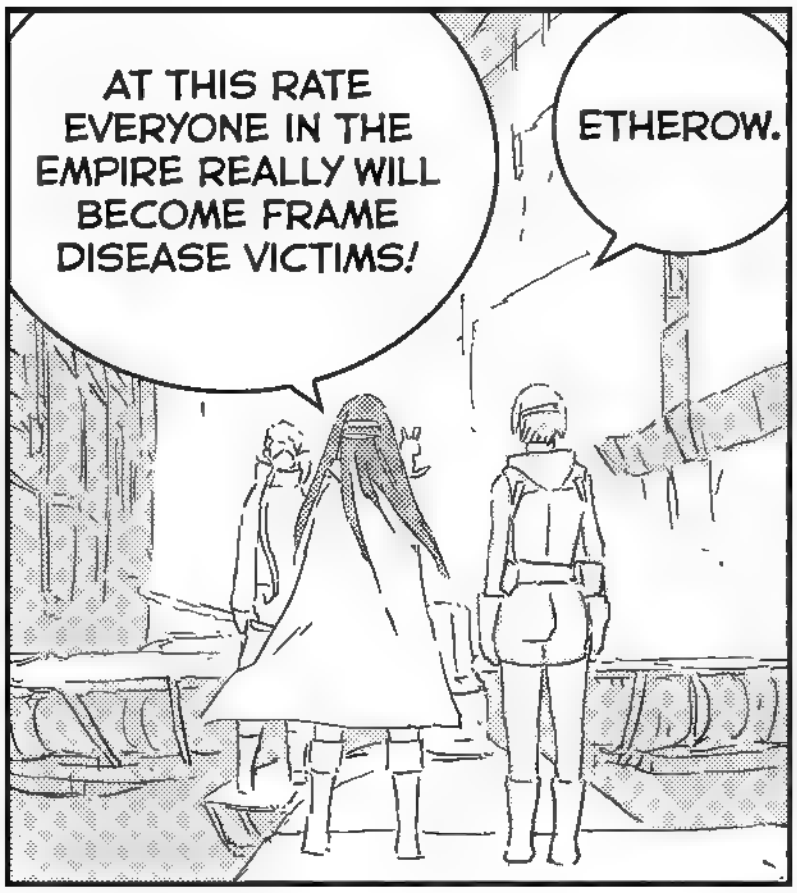

AREN'T THERE A LOT OF INFECTED AROUND HERE? IT'S WEIRD!

NOT SO LOUD!
HELLO? IS ANYONE HERE?

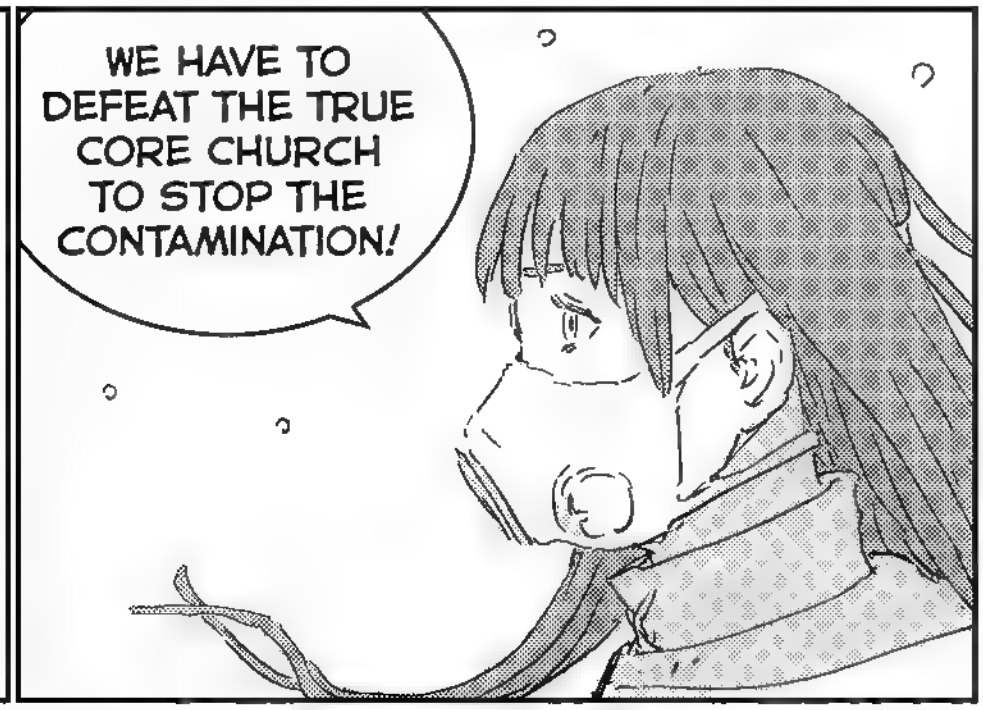
WAS THIS PLACE CONTAMINATED LIKE RUTOHMERO ...?

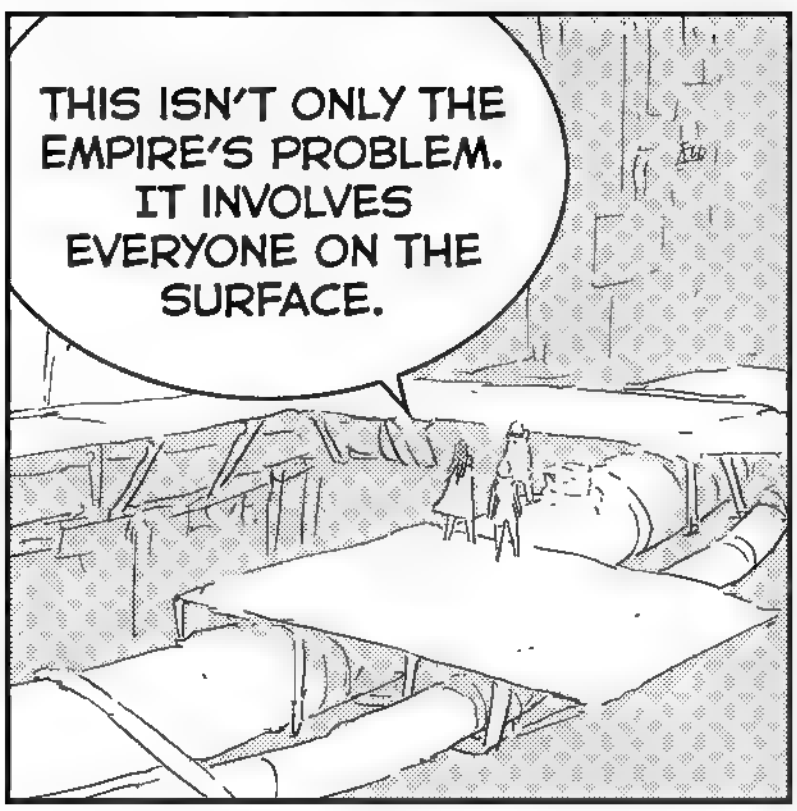
THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY HUMANS HERE.


THIS IS THE CONTAMINANT THAT'S CAUSING THE OUTBREAK OF FRAME DISEASE!
THROUGH THE PIPES FROM RUTOHMERO.
IT MUST HAVE TRAVELED HERE
KREAK
KREAK
THAT'S THE MAIN PIPE. WE'LL CLOSE THE VALVE AND STOP THE SPREAD.

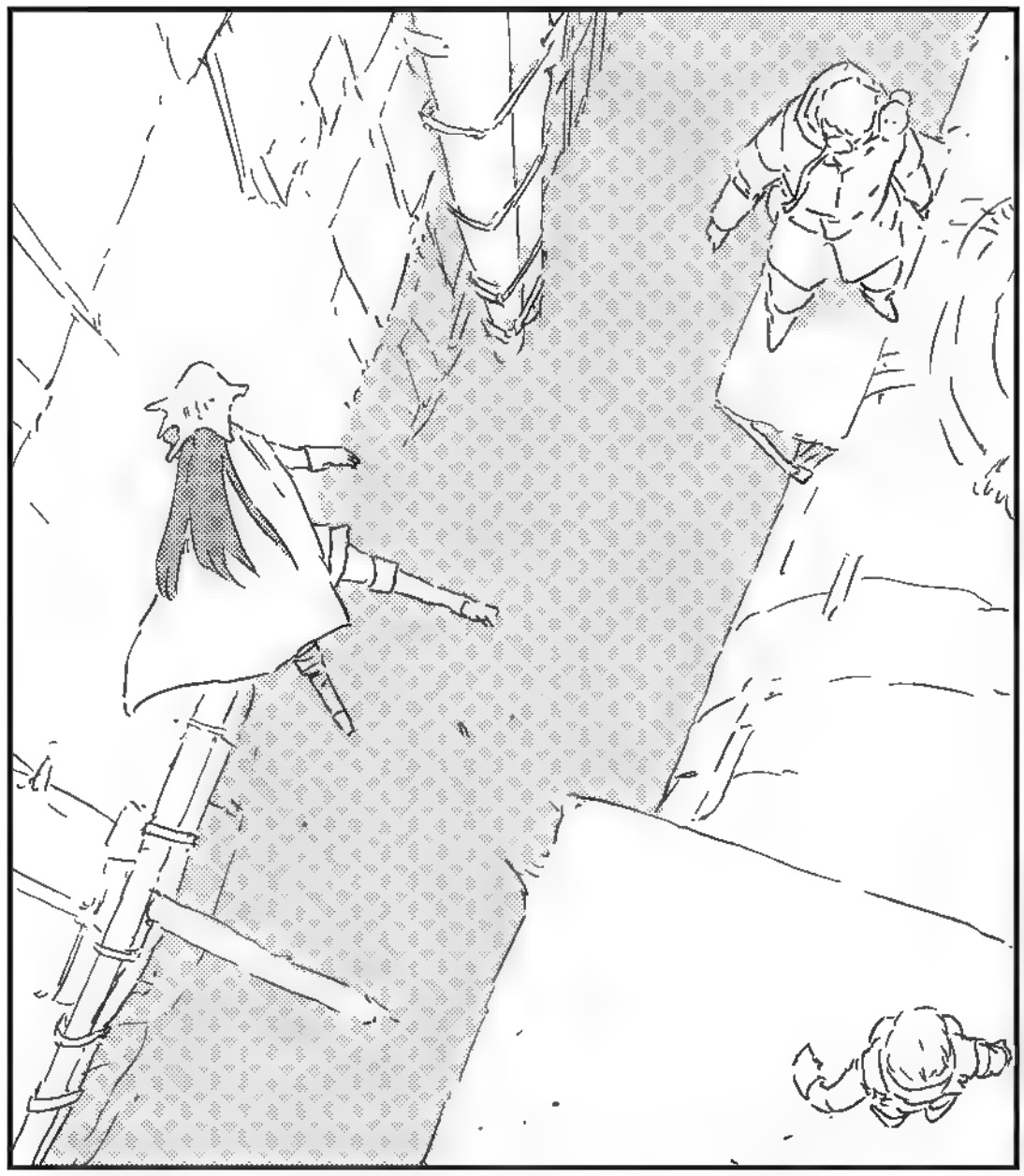

AT THIS RATE EVERYONE IN THE EMPIRE REALLY WILL BECOME FRAME DISEASE VICTIMS!
ETHEROW.

THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO LIFE...
WHO'D RELEASE A CONTAMI-NANT INTO THE AIR PIPES
THAT SHOULD DO IT!

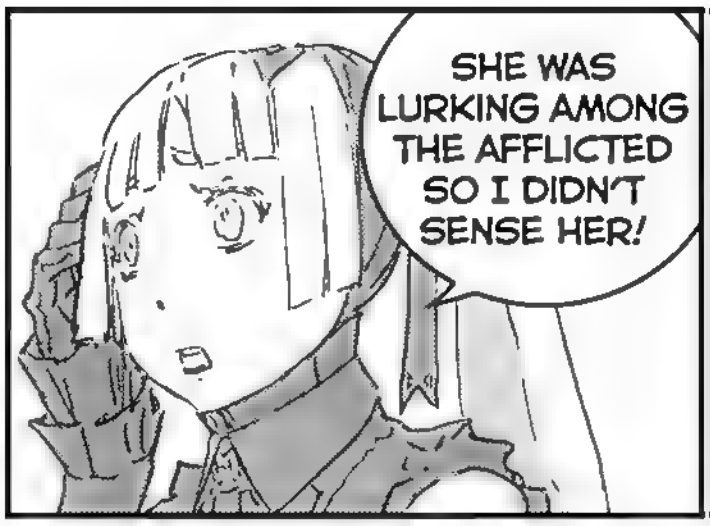

WE HAVE TO DEFEAT THE TRUE CORE CHURCH TO STOP THE CONTAMINATION!


THIS ISN'T ONLY THE EMPIRE'S PROBLEM. IT INVOLVES EVERYONE ON THE SURFACE.

YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING TO HELP THE EMPIRE?!
H-HANG ON A SECOND!



KEISHA
!

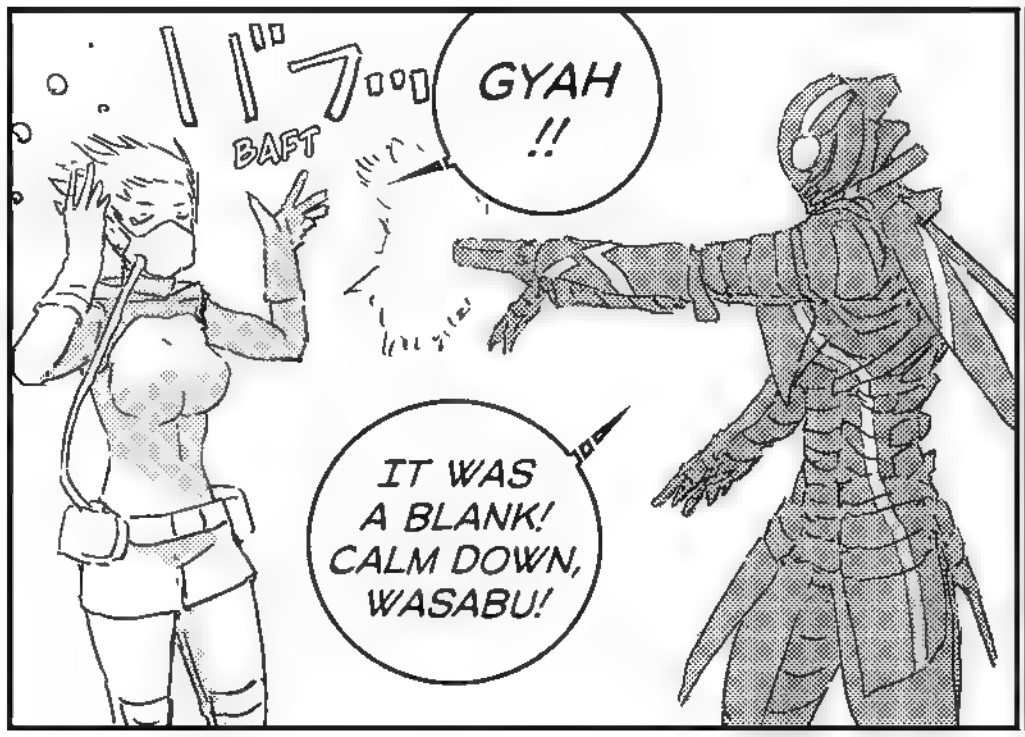

SHE WAS LURKING AMONG THE AFFLICTED SO I DIDN'T SENSE HER!

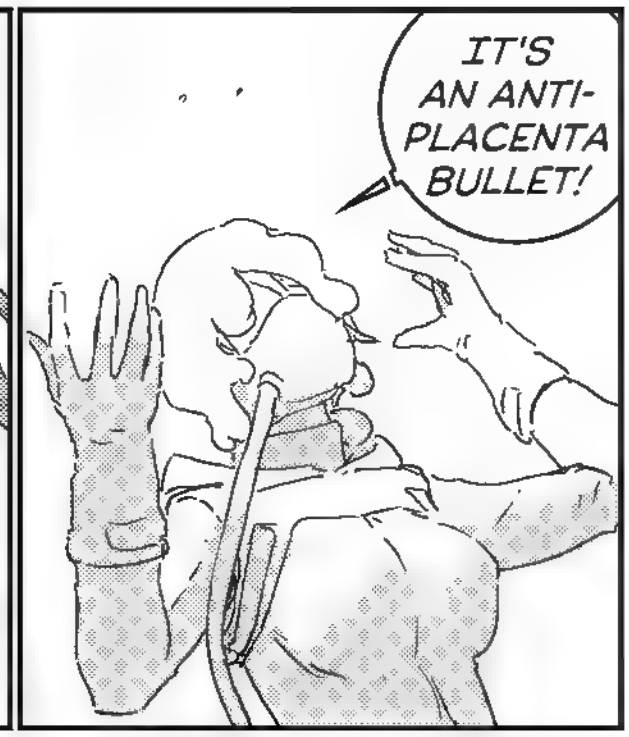
THERE'S A REIN-CARNATED!

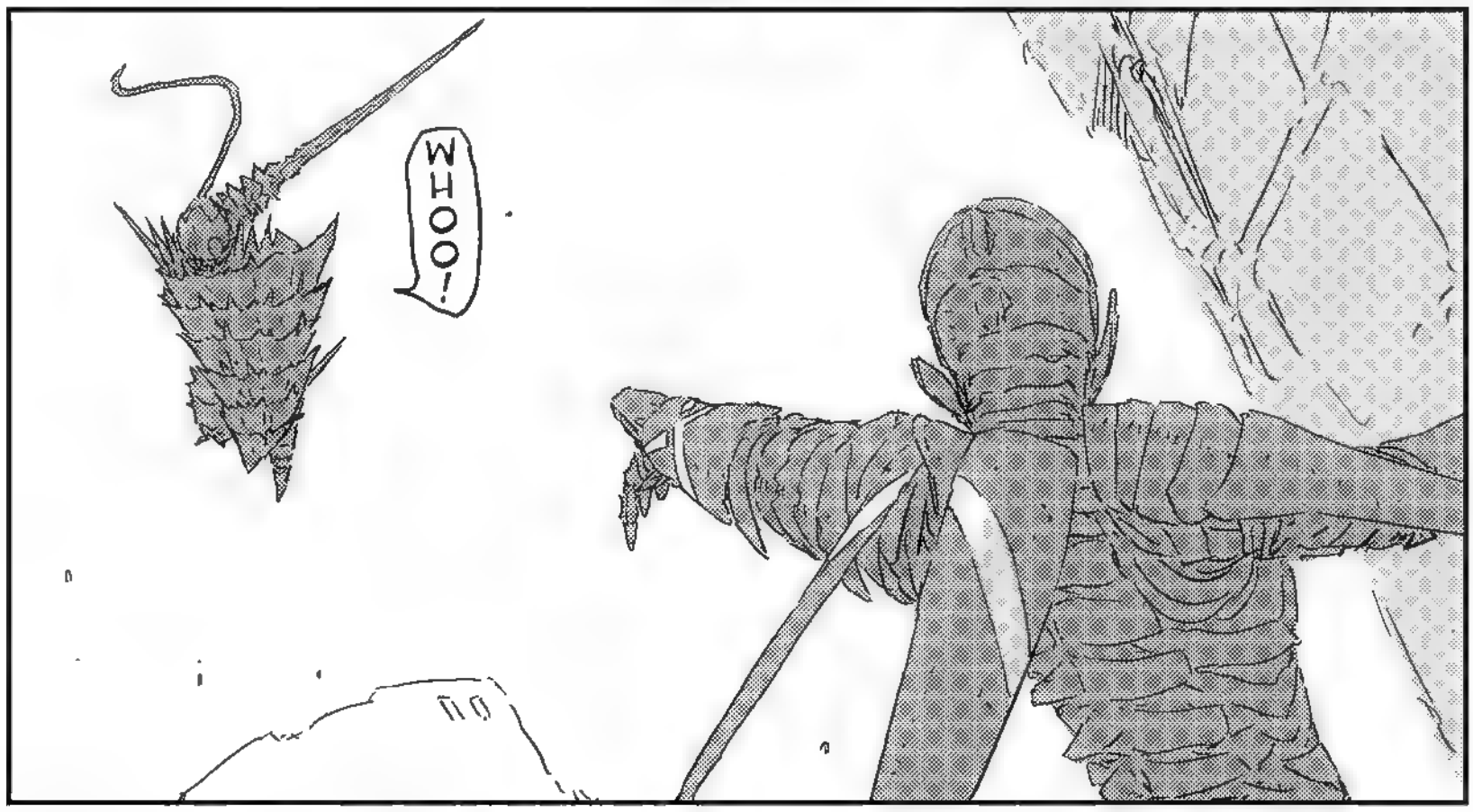
UNDER-STOOD.
...
AND I, NAYUTA, WILL KILL ETHEROW.
FWIP
SWSH

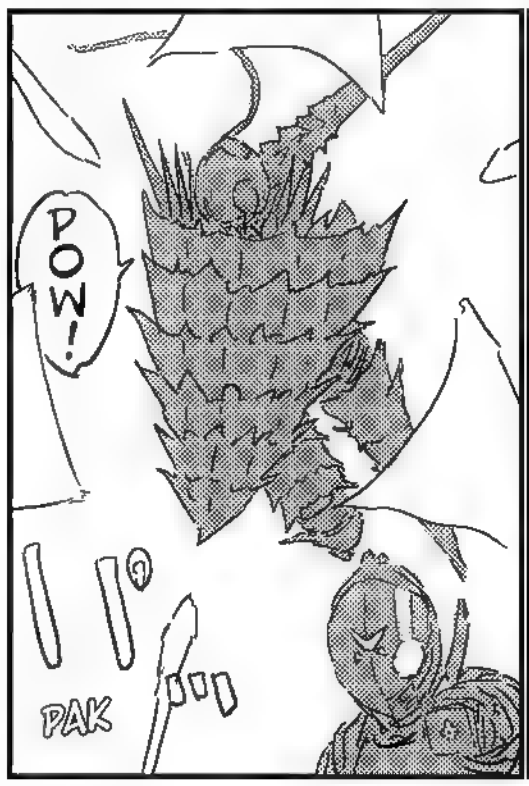
I'VE MANAGED TO NEUTRALIZE TWO OF THEM!
NYAN, GET THE ONE THAT FLIES.
BAHASAMU, GO GET THE ELECTRICITY-USER THAT FELL.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, FOOL!
SSHH
THE EMPIRE DOESN'T NEED ANY HELP FROM YOU PEOPLE.

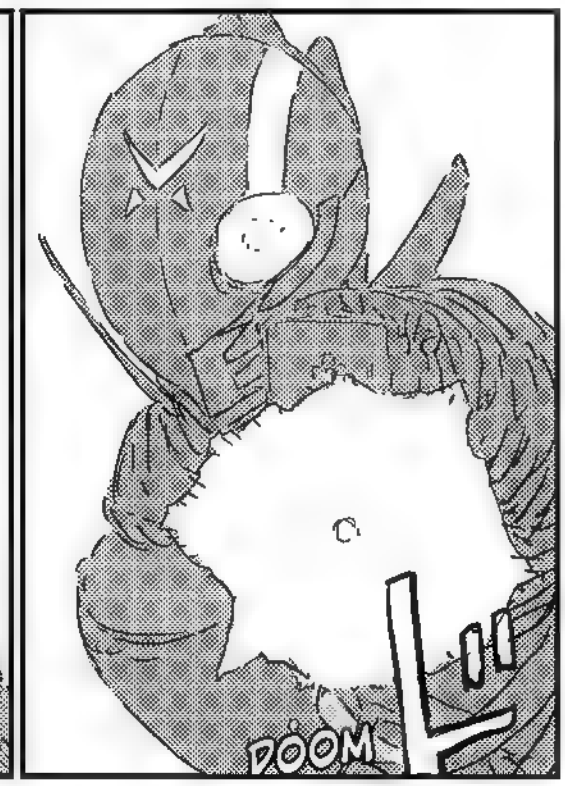

BAFT
GYAH !!
IT WAS A BLANK! CALM DOWN, WASABU!


IT'S AN ANTI-PLACENTA BULLET!

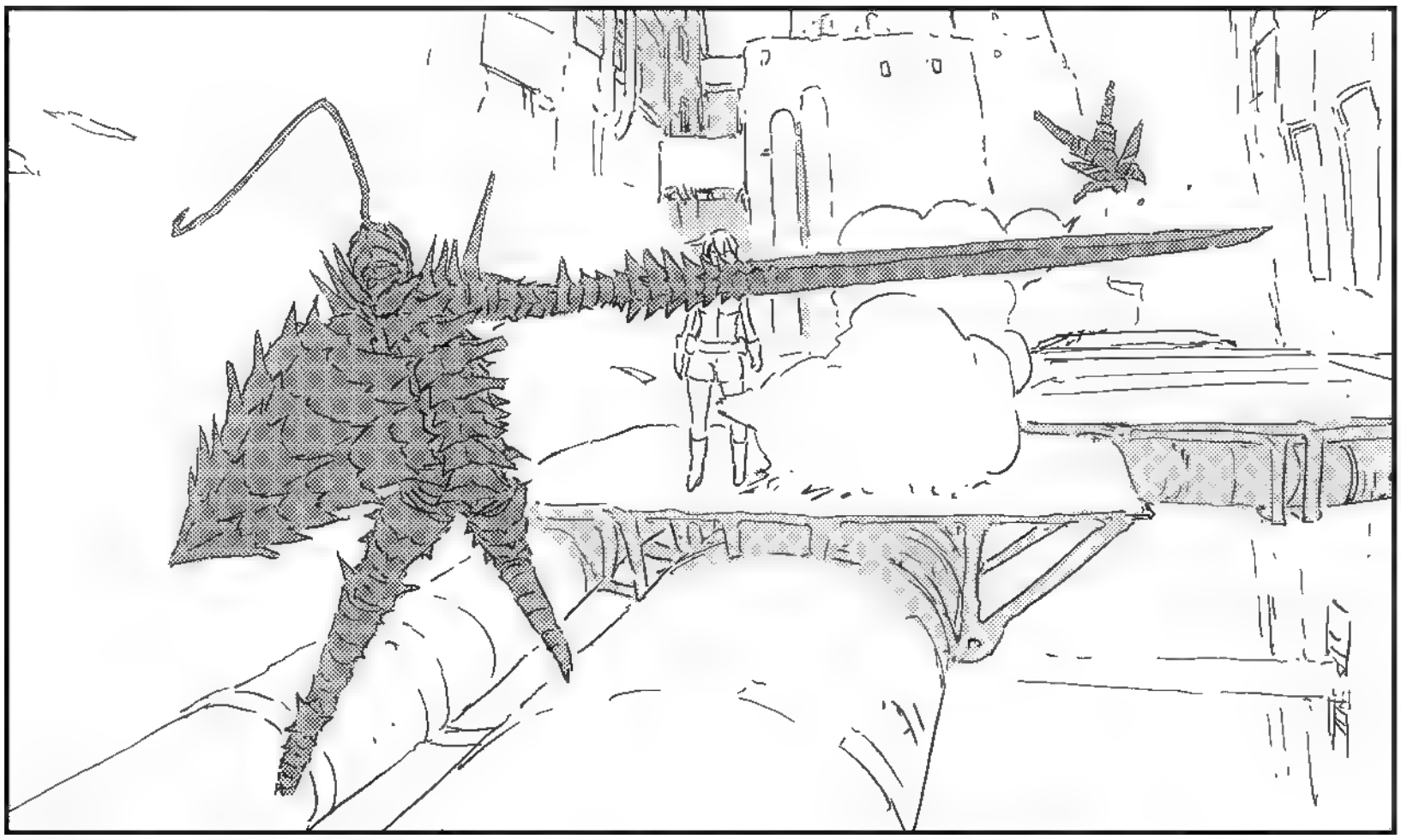

WHOO!

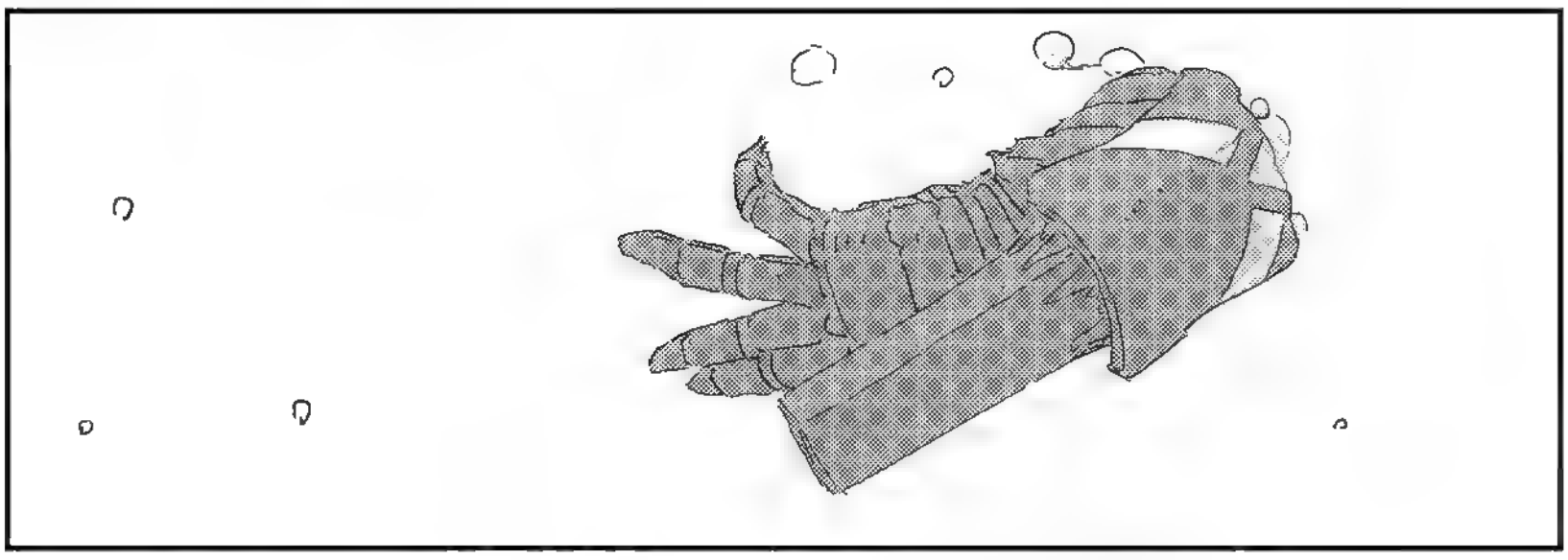

POW!
PAK

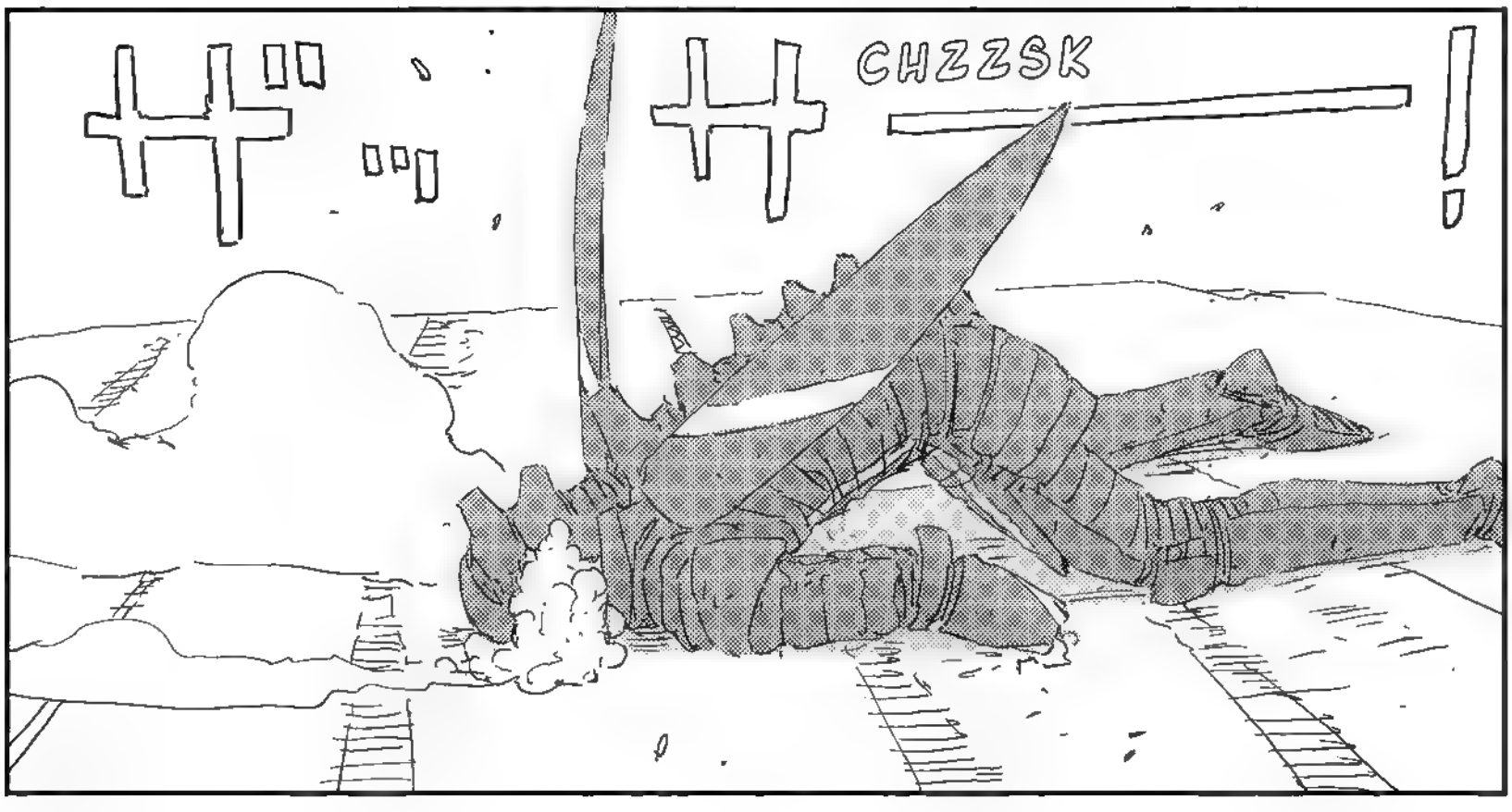
PAK


DOOM

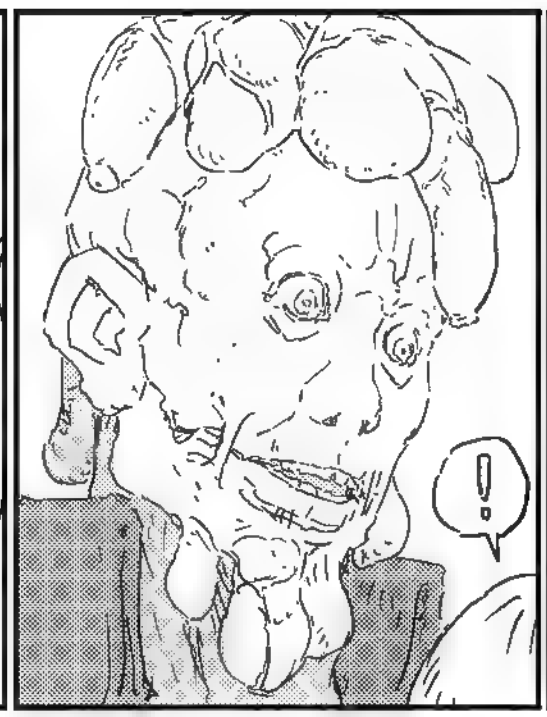
SLAM!

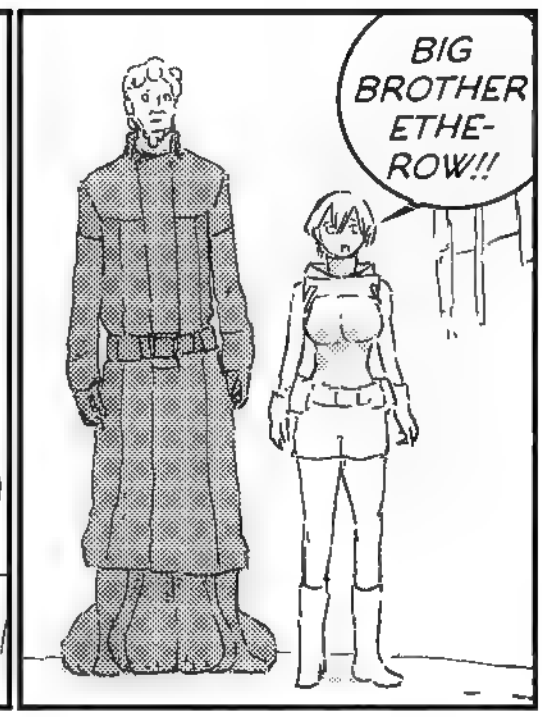


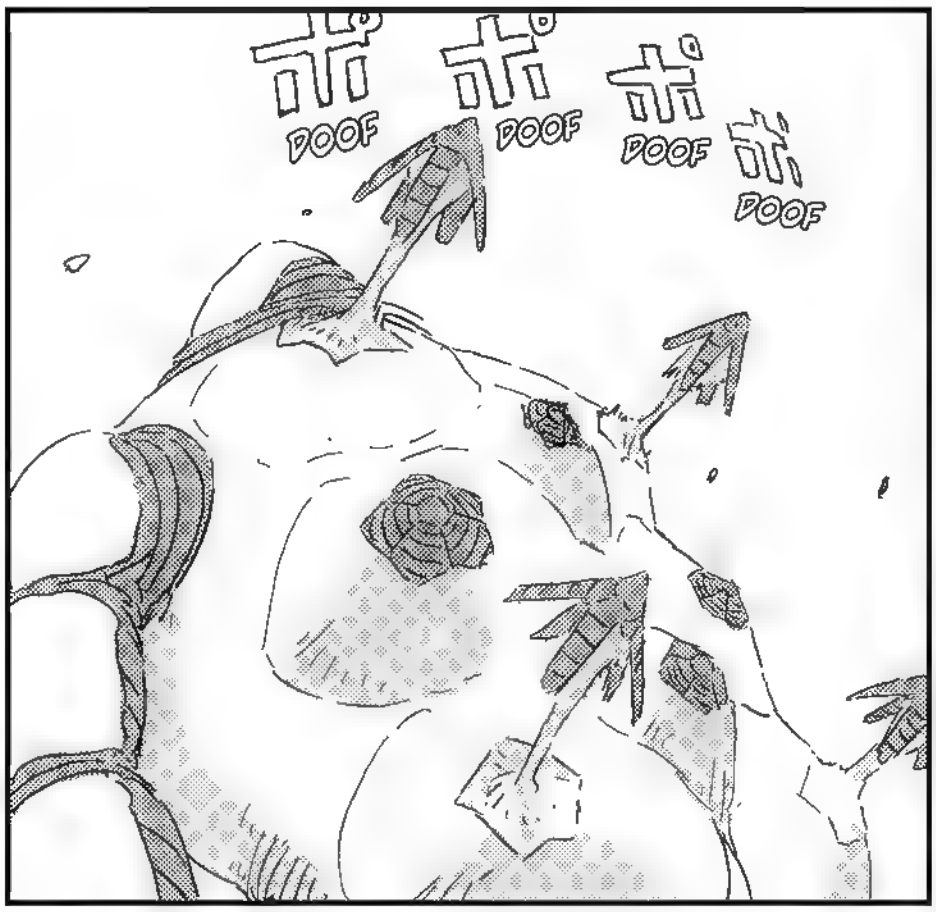


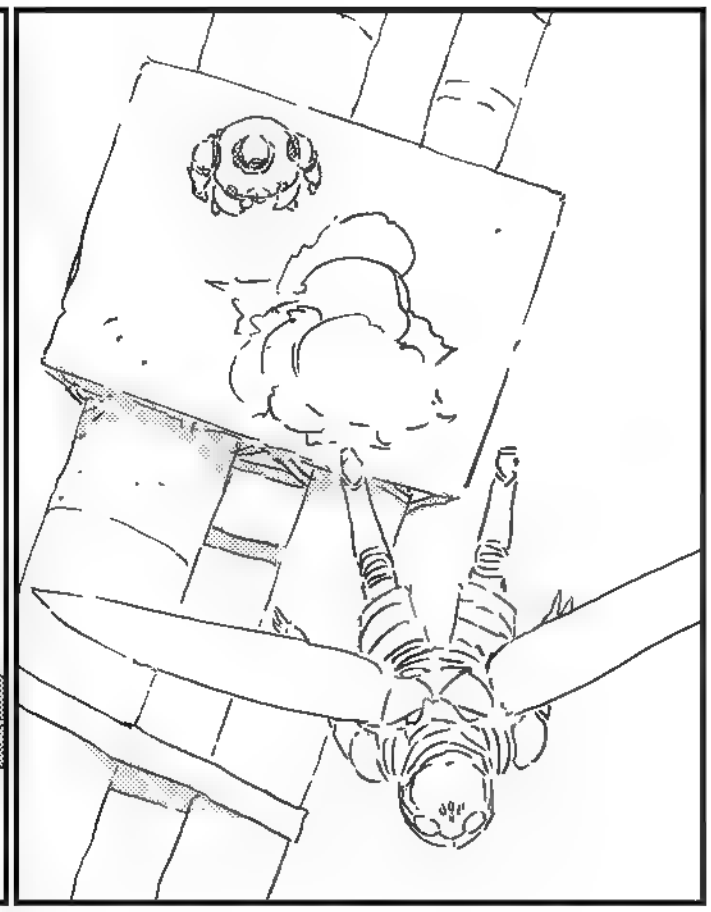

CHZZSK

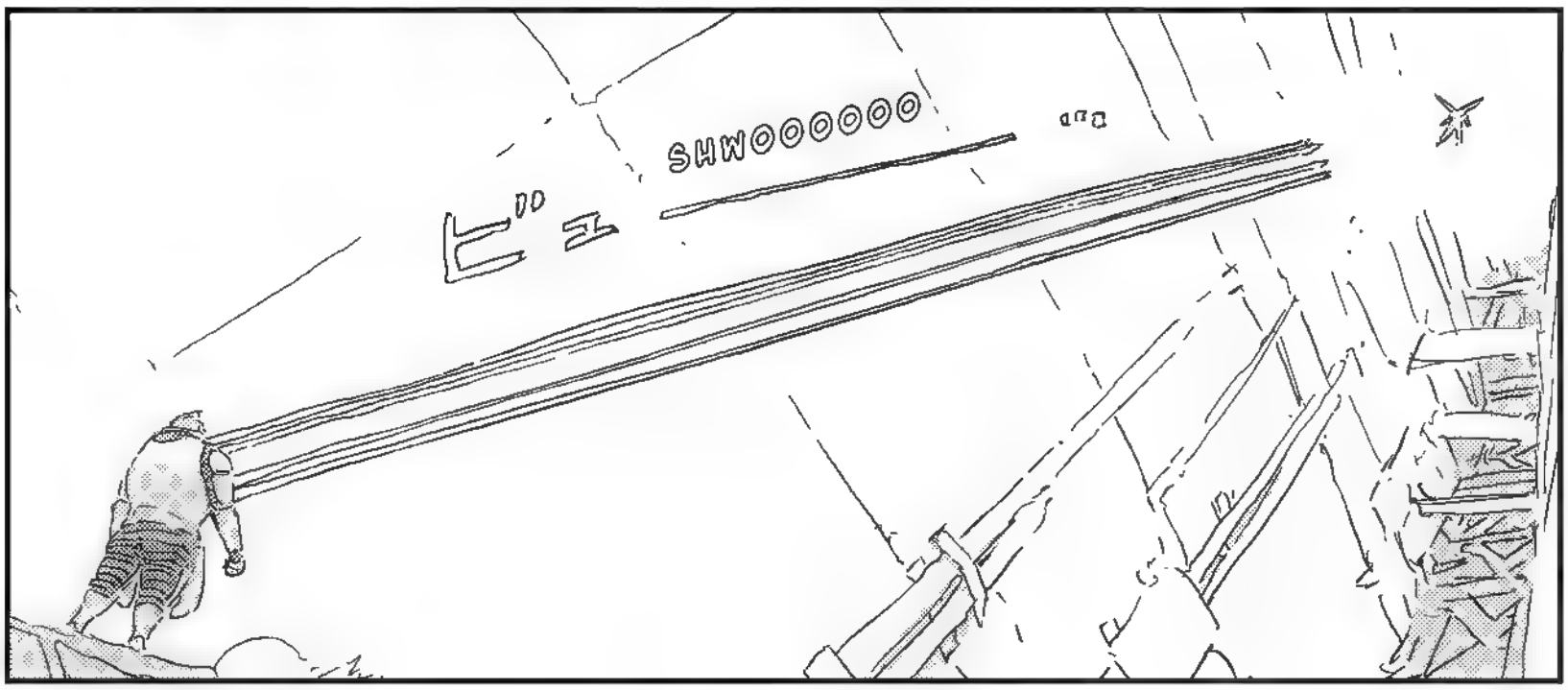
GYAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAA
AAA
AA
AA
AA

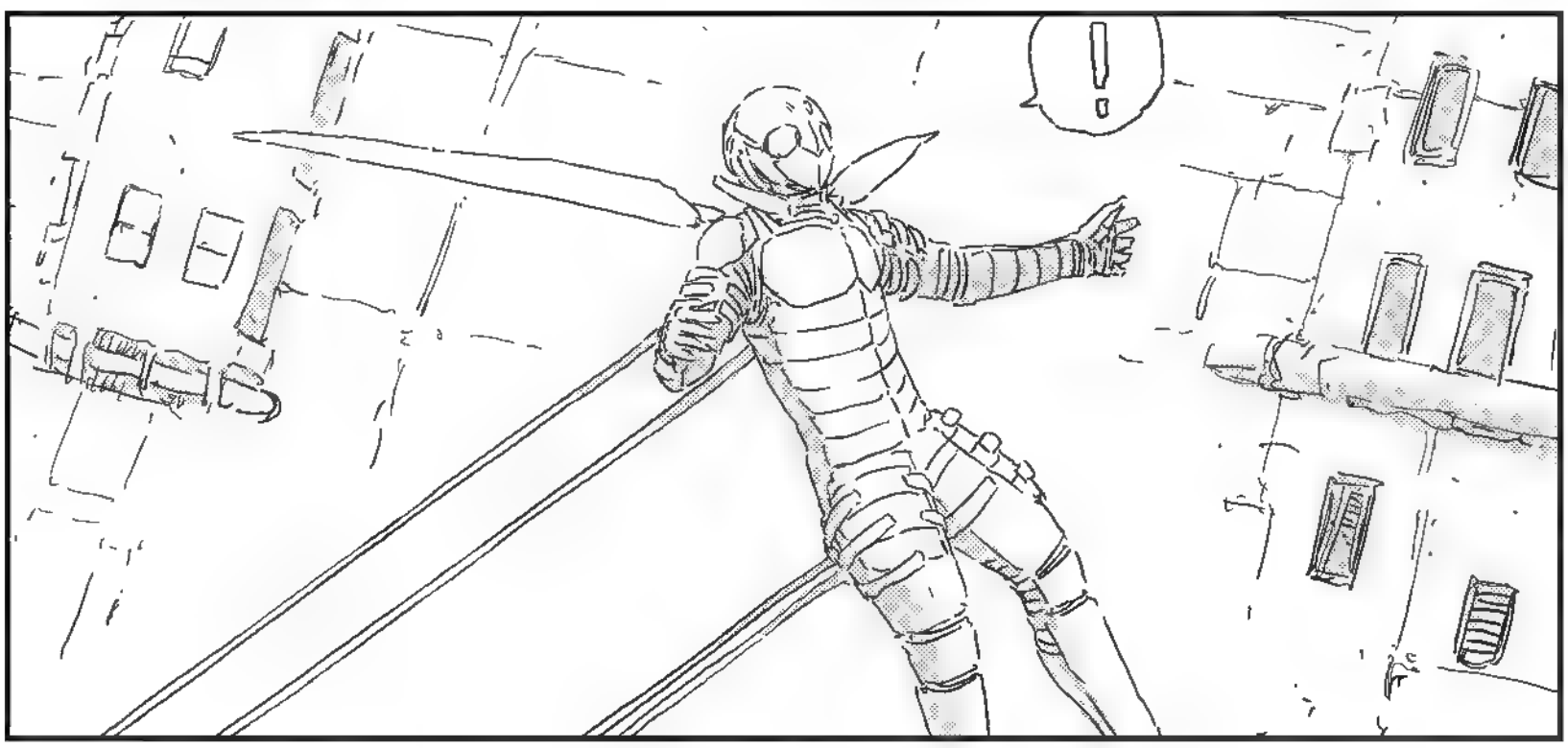

!

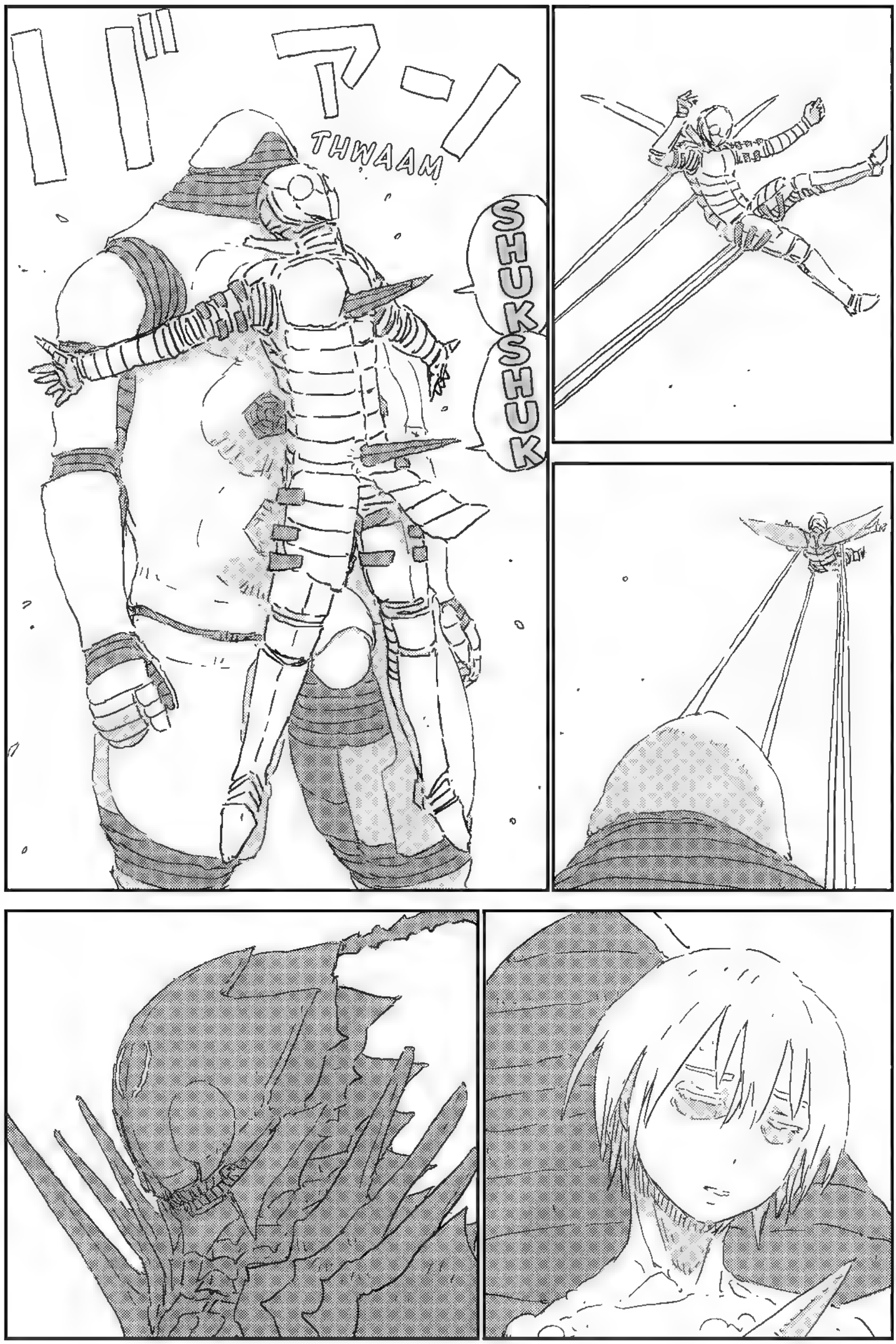

BIG BROTHER ETHE-ROW!!

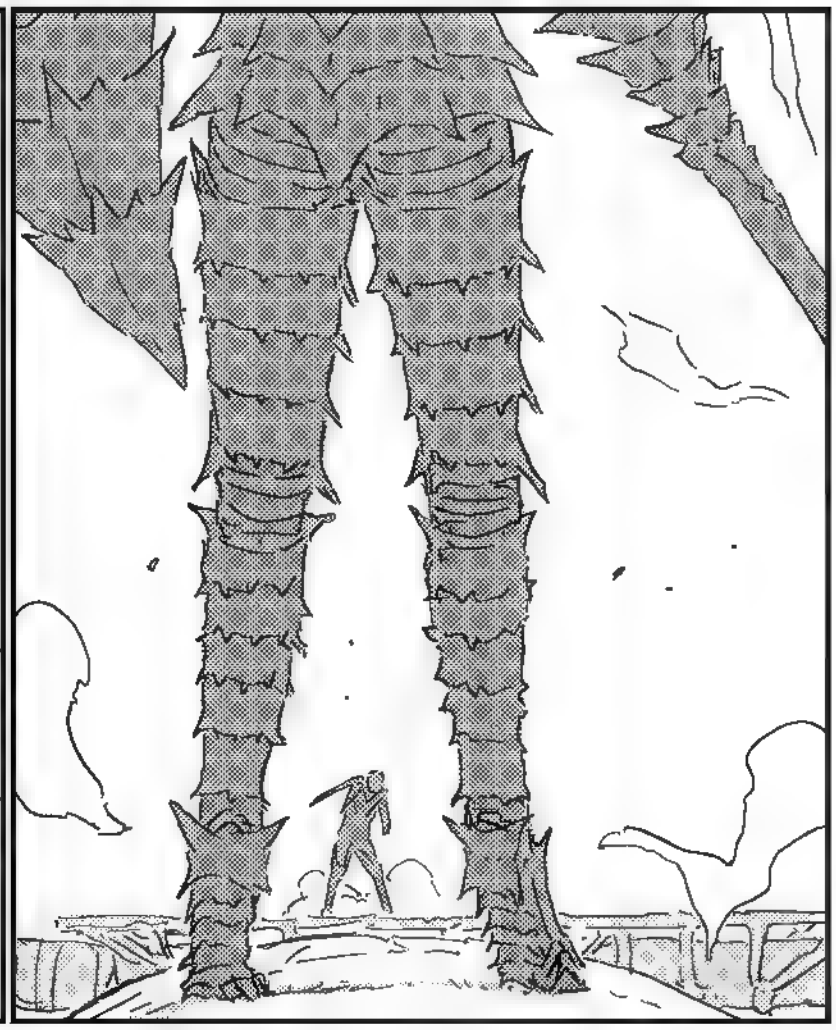

DOOF
DOOF
DOOF
DOOF

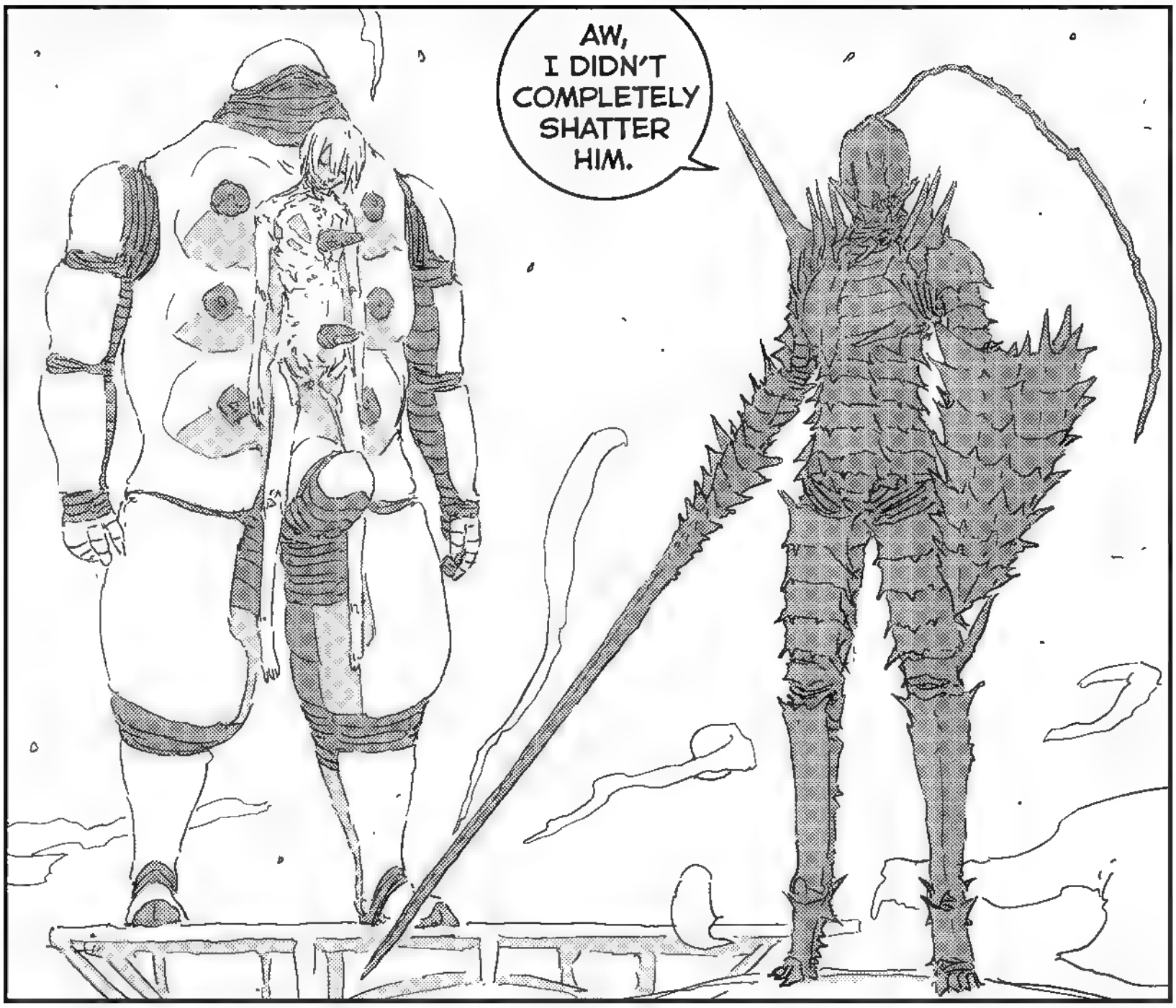


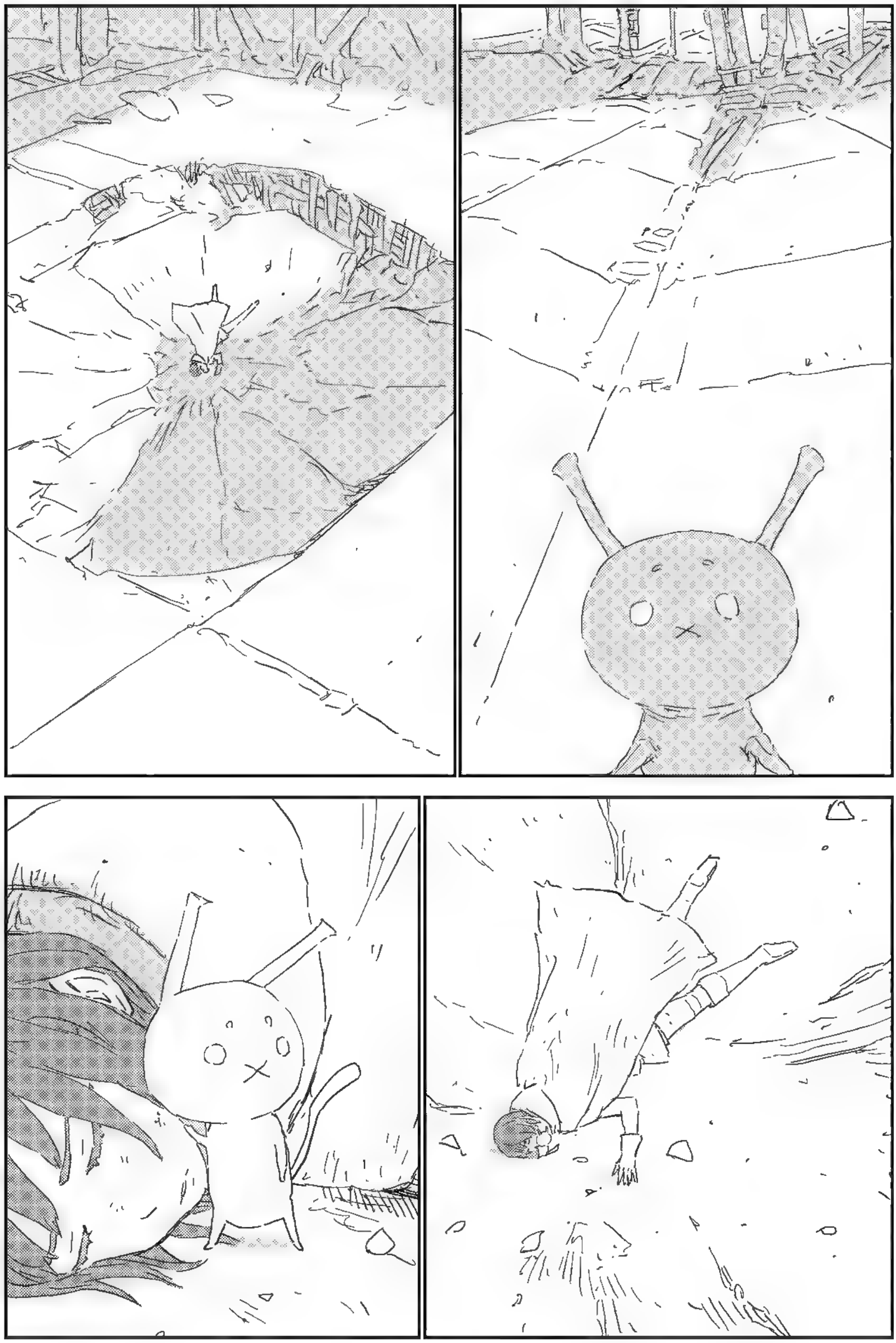

SHWOOOOOOO

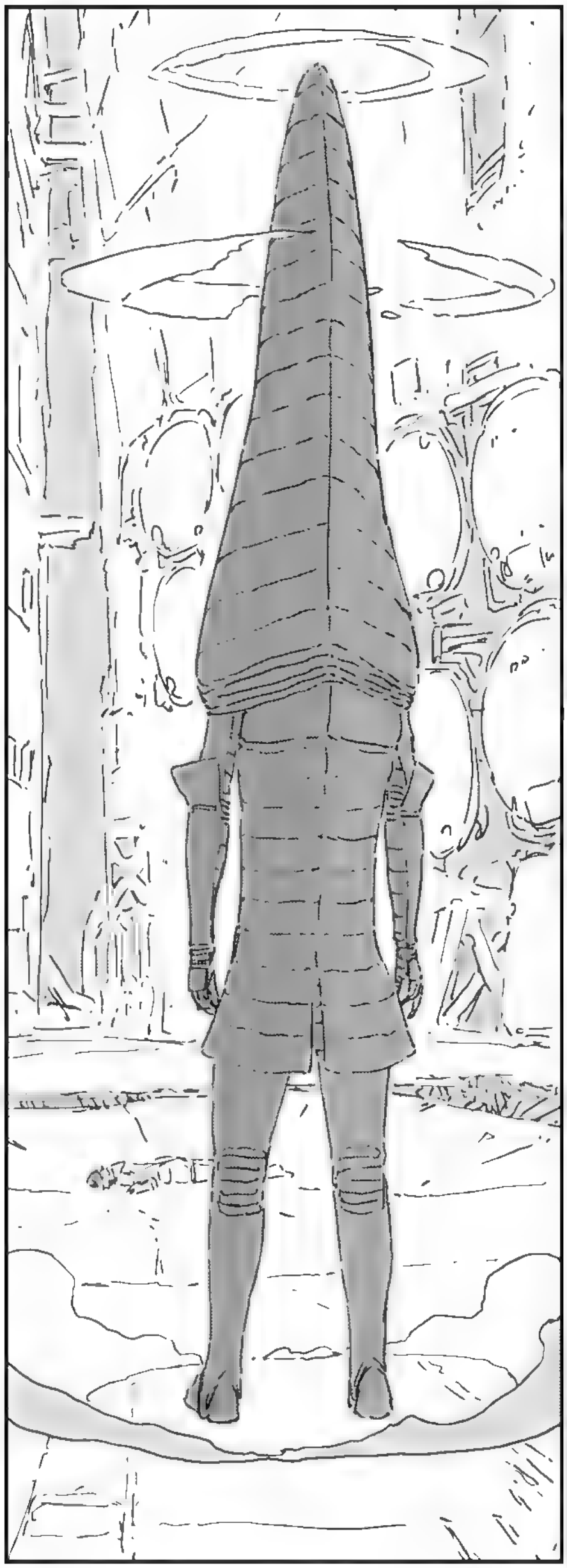

!


THWAAM
SHUKSHUK




AW, I DIDN'T COMPLETELY SHATTER HIM.



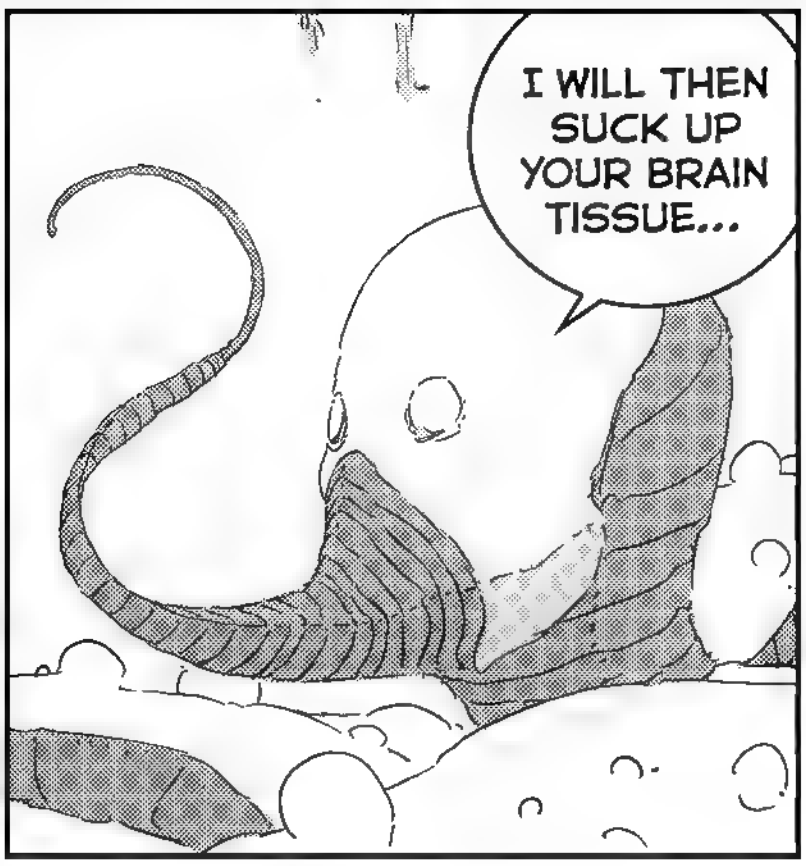


KEISHA OF IRF NIKK.
SO YOU'RE OUT COLD, EH...

IT'S INEVITABLE YOU'D END UP LIKE THIS.
I GUESS IF YOU FALL FROM THAT HEIGHT IN AN IMMOBILIZED STATE

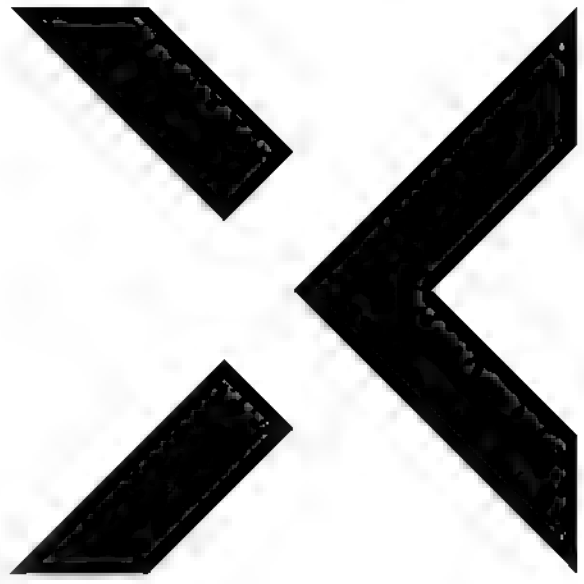
YOU WILL SURELY BE AWAKENED BY THE PAIN.

BUT AT SOME STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING SOAKED AND DISSOLVED IN MY DIGESTIVE FLUIDS



CHAPTER 44 END

APOSIMZ



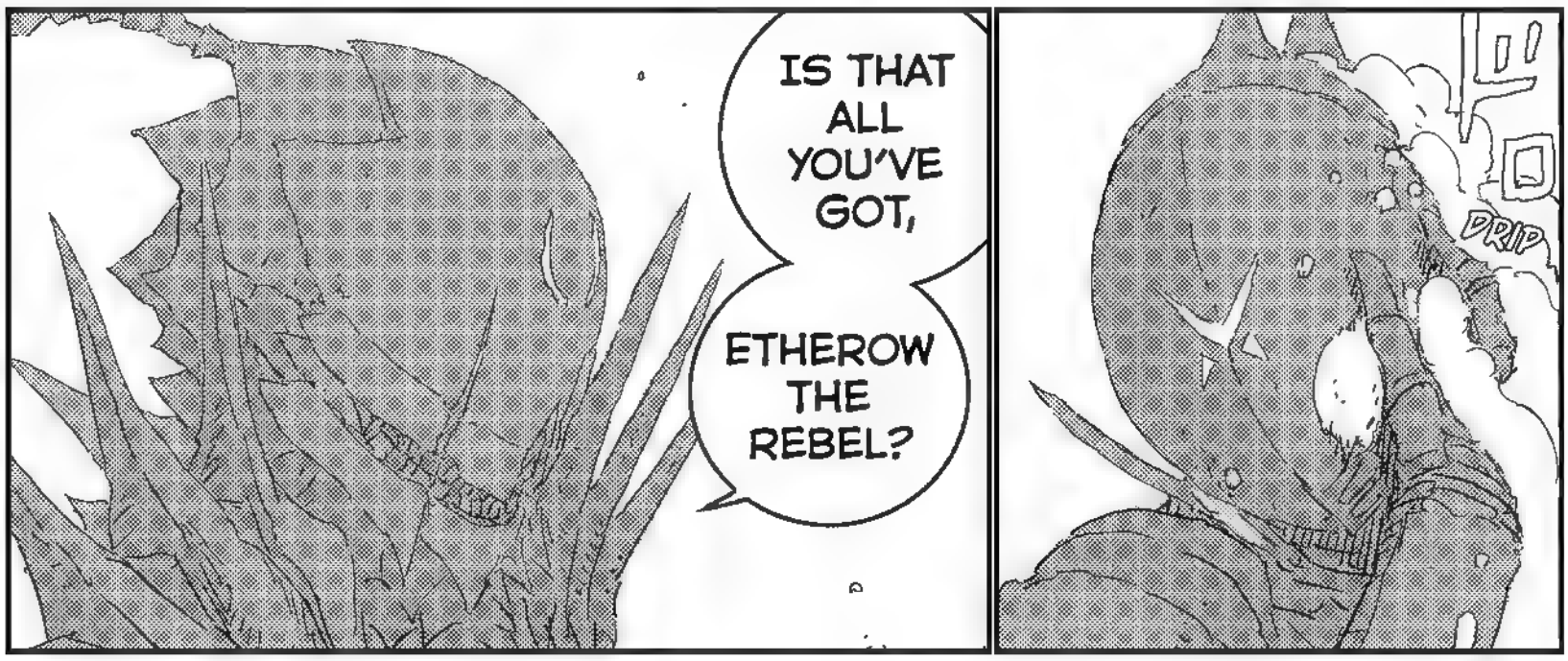
CHAPTER 45

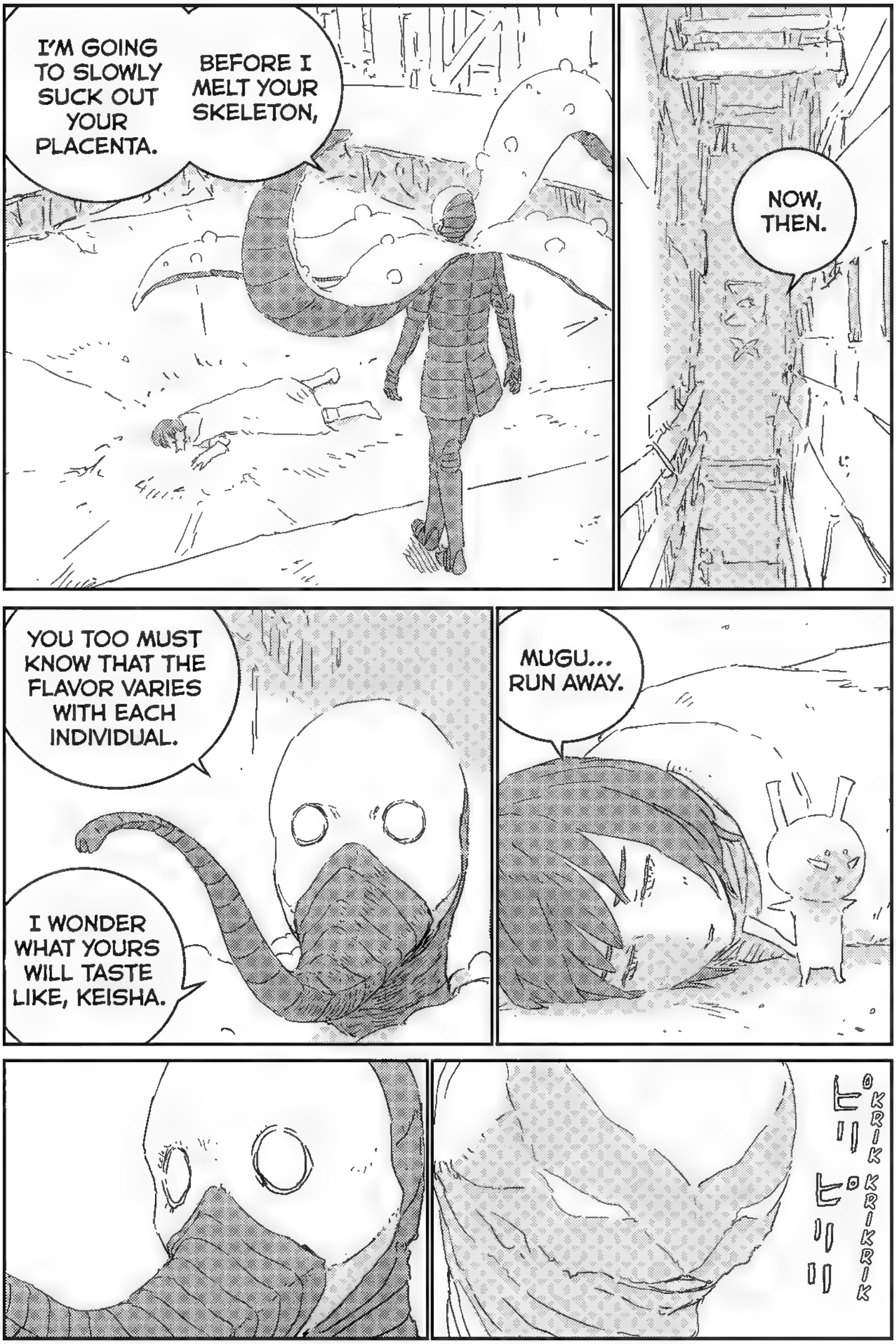
BUT THE ONE THAT FLIES IS GROUNDED,

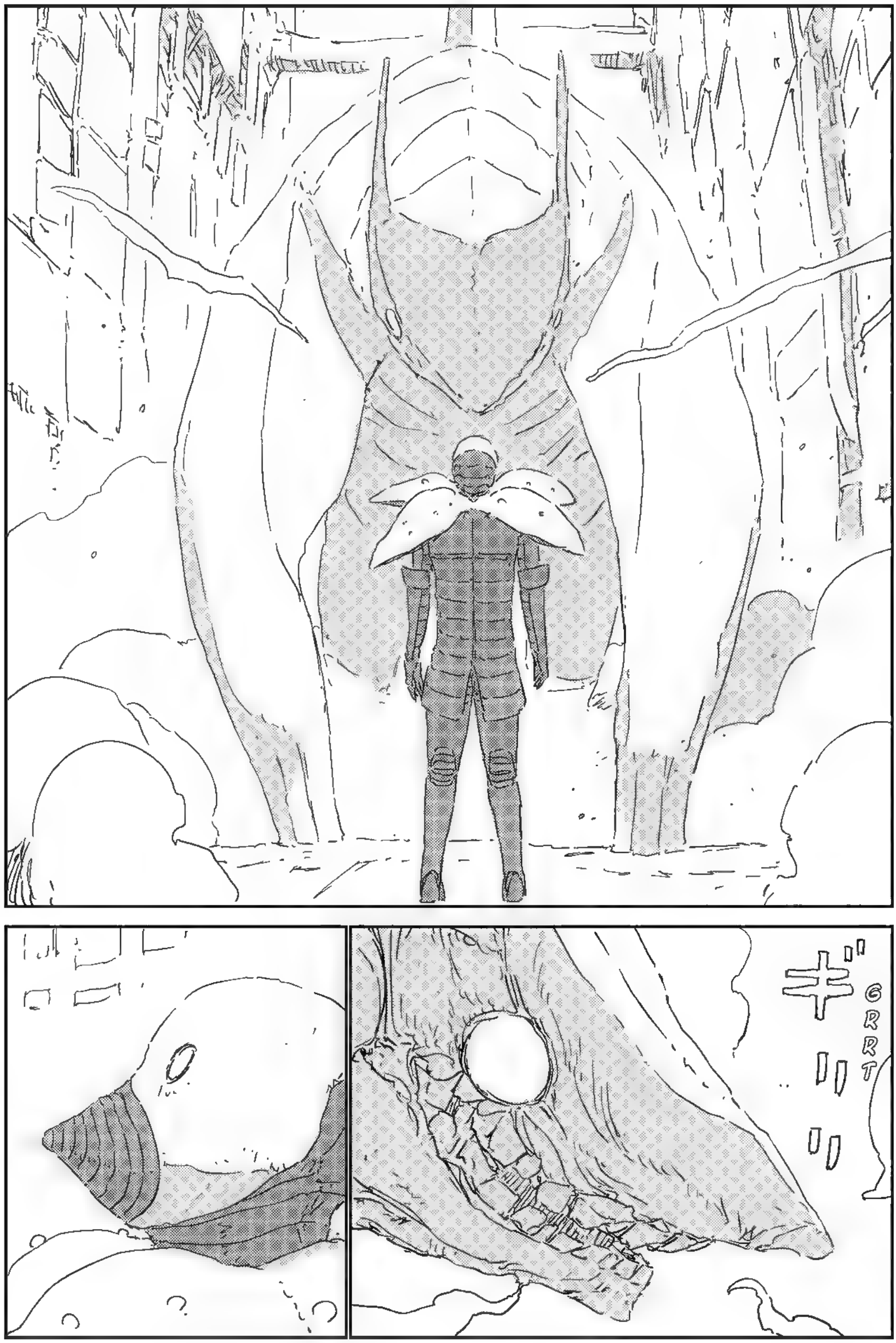
AND THE ELECTRICITY USER IS INCAPACITATED,

I'D MEANT TO SPLIT YOUR HEAD OPEN, BUT I GUESS I WAS OFF THE MARK.

SO I WIN.

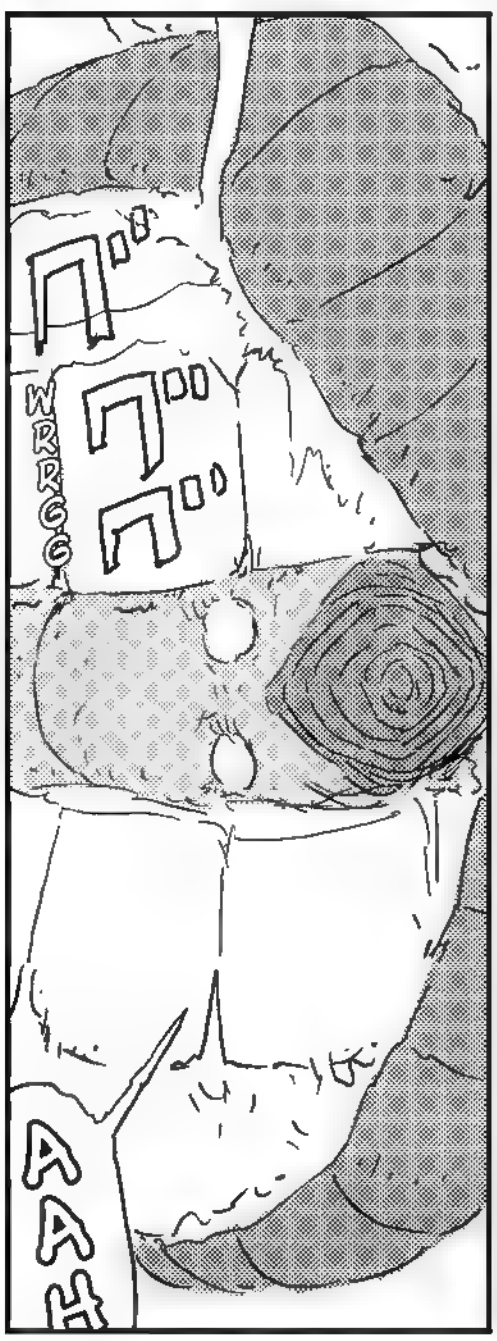


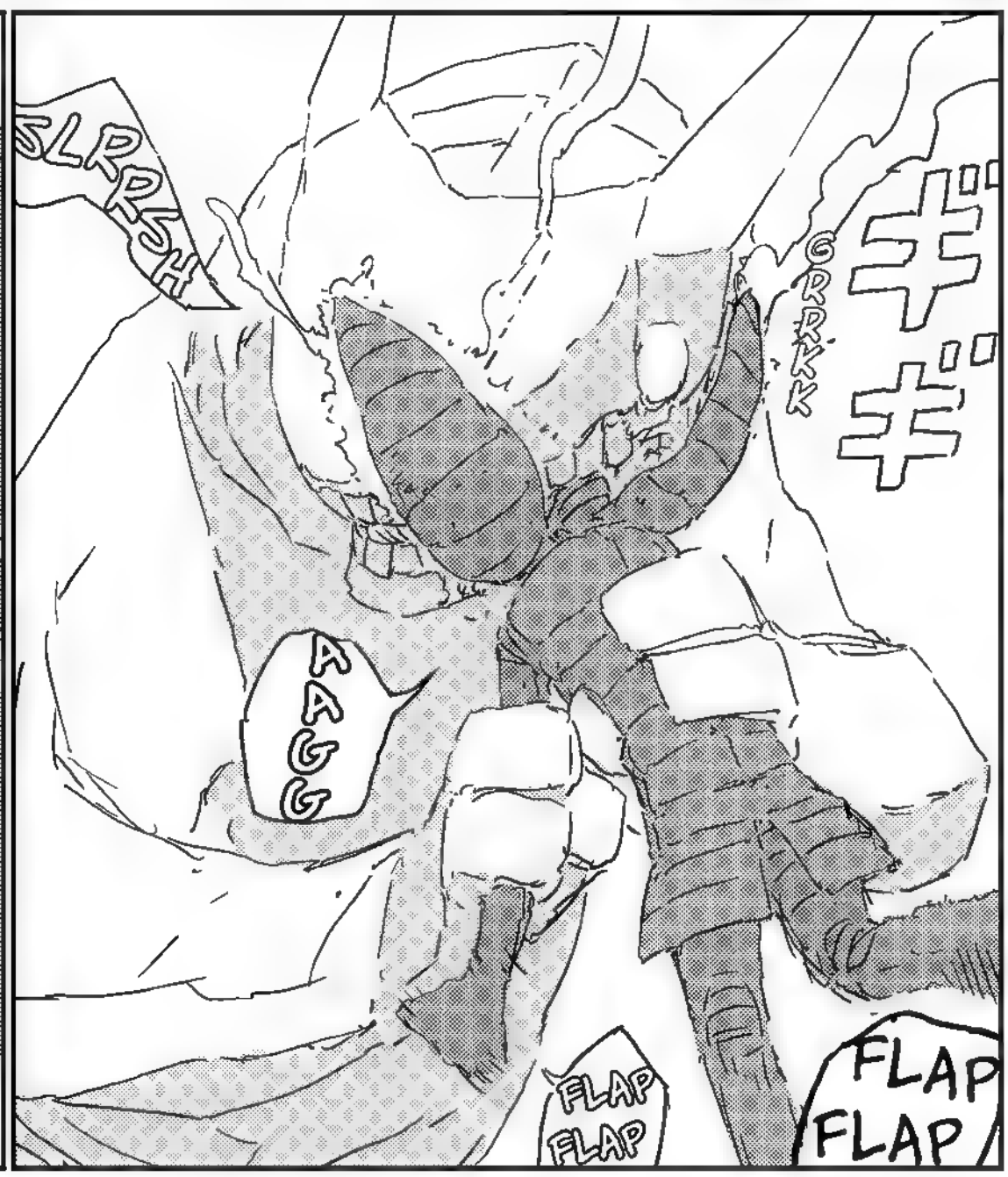

I'M GOING TO SLOWLY SUCK OUT YOUR PLACENTA.
BEFORE I MELT YOUR SKELETON,
NOW, THEN.
YOU TOO MUST KNOW THAT THE FLAVOR VARIES WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL.
I WONDER WHAT YOURS WILL TASTE LIKE, KEISHA.
MUGU... RUN AWAY.
KRIK KRIKRIK
ヒリ ヒリ


GRRT

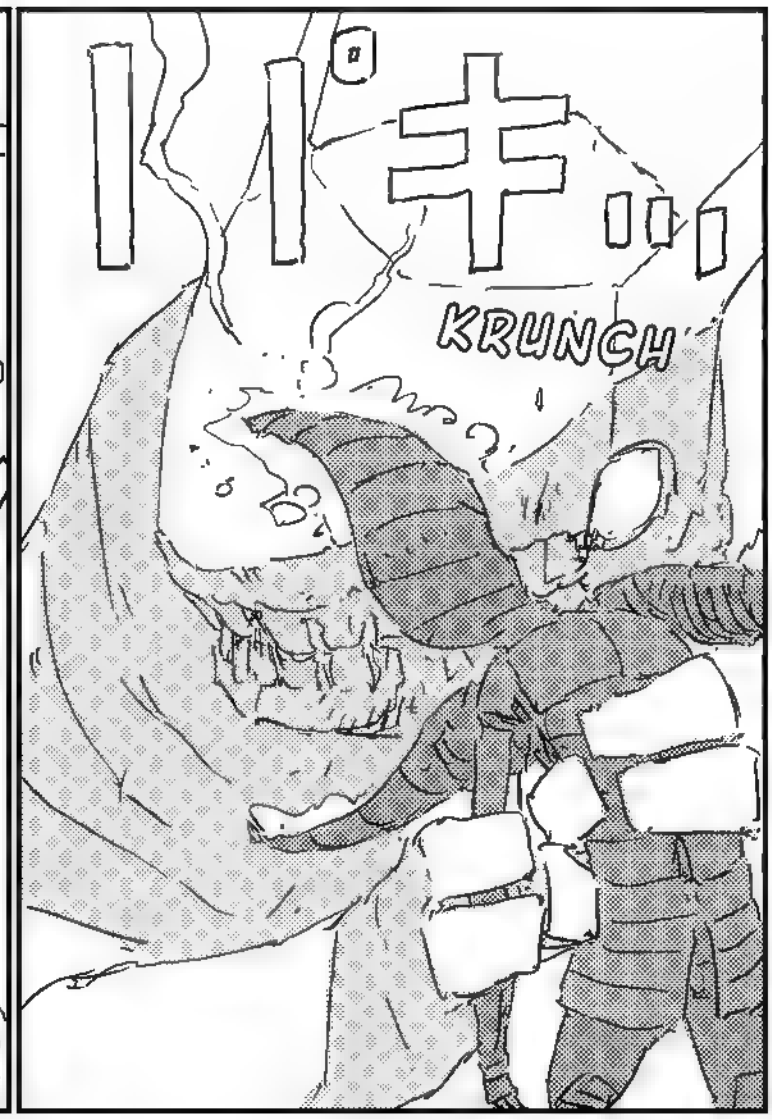
LORD KUDOH.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR HONORABLE SISTER,

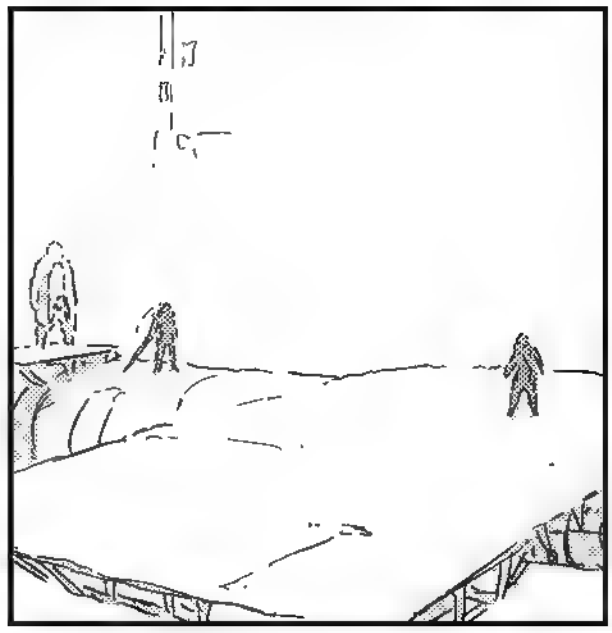
BAHASAMU, PLEASE LOOK AFTER NAYUTA.
SHE HAS A LOT OF ISSUES, BUT BEING IN AN EXECUTION SQUAD IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HER TO FLOURISH, I THINK.

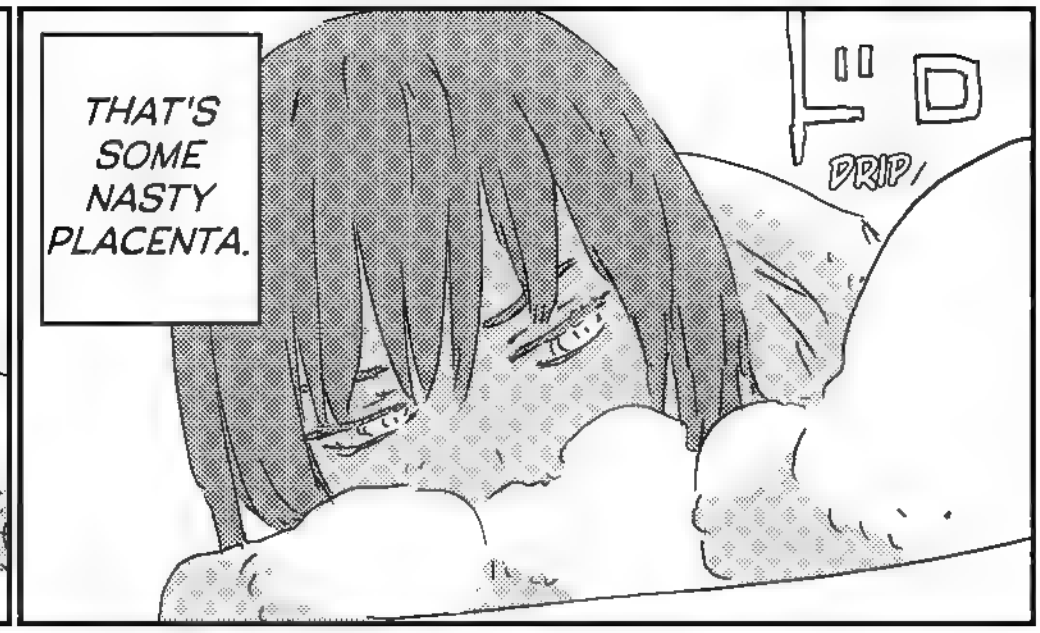

NO
NO
NO
WRRGG
AAH

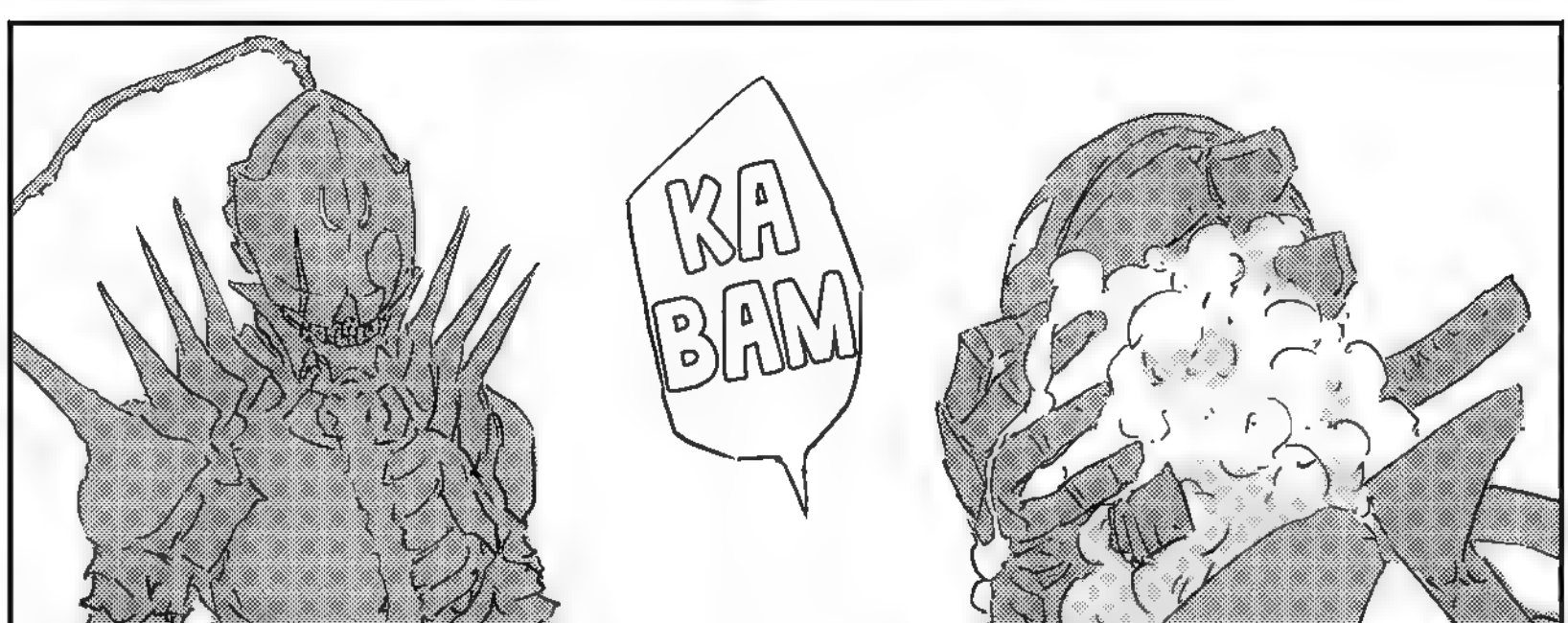

SLRRSH
GRRKK
AAGG
FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP

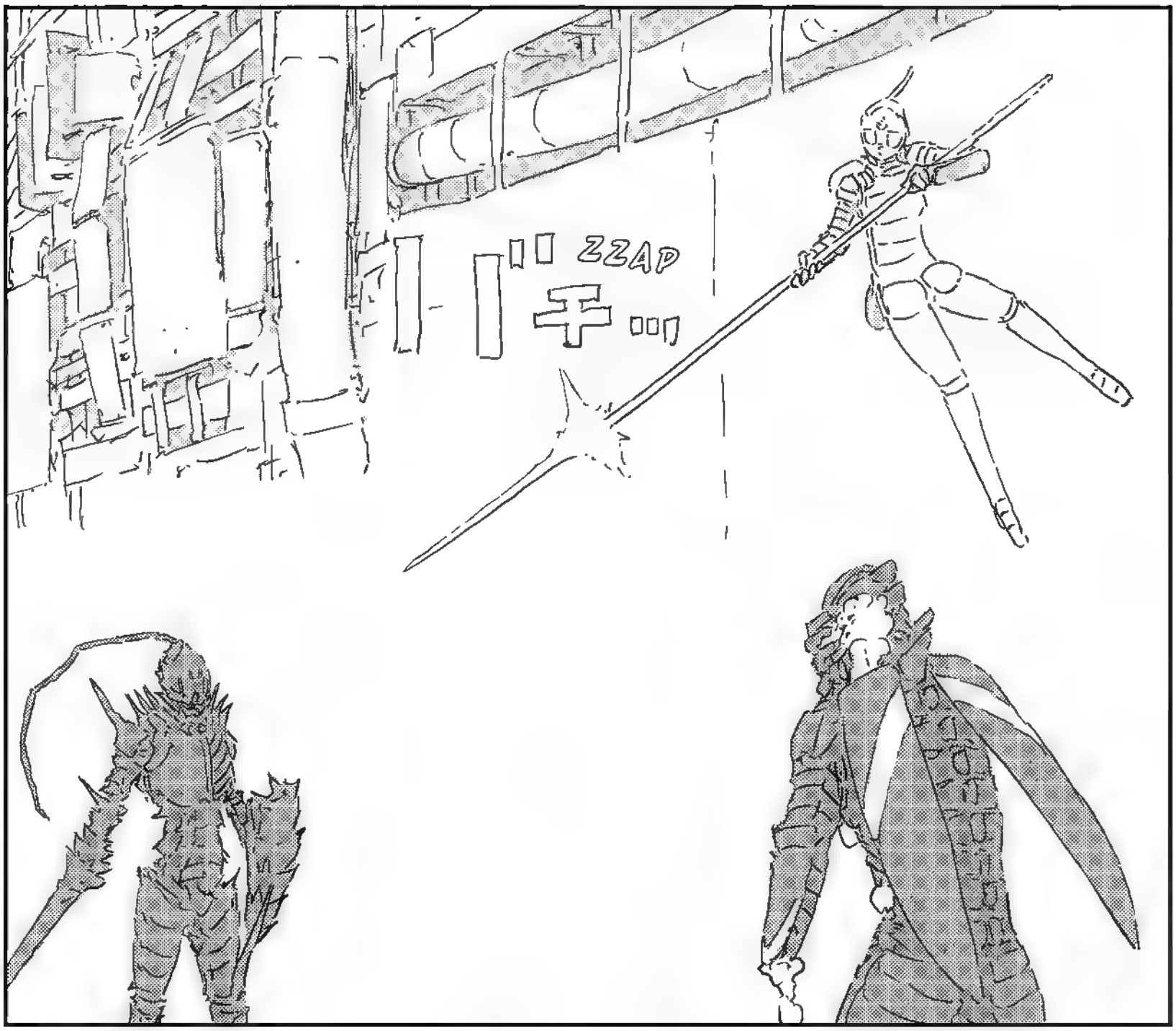
DROOP
ズルン

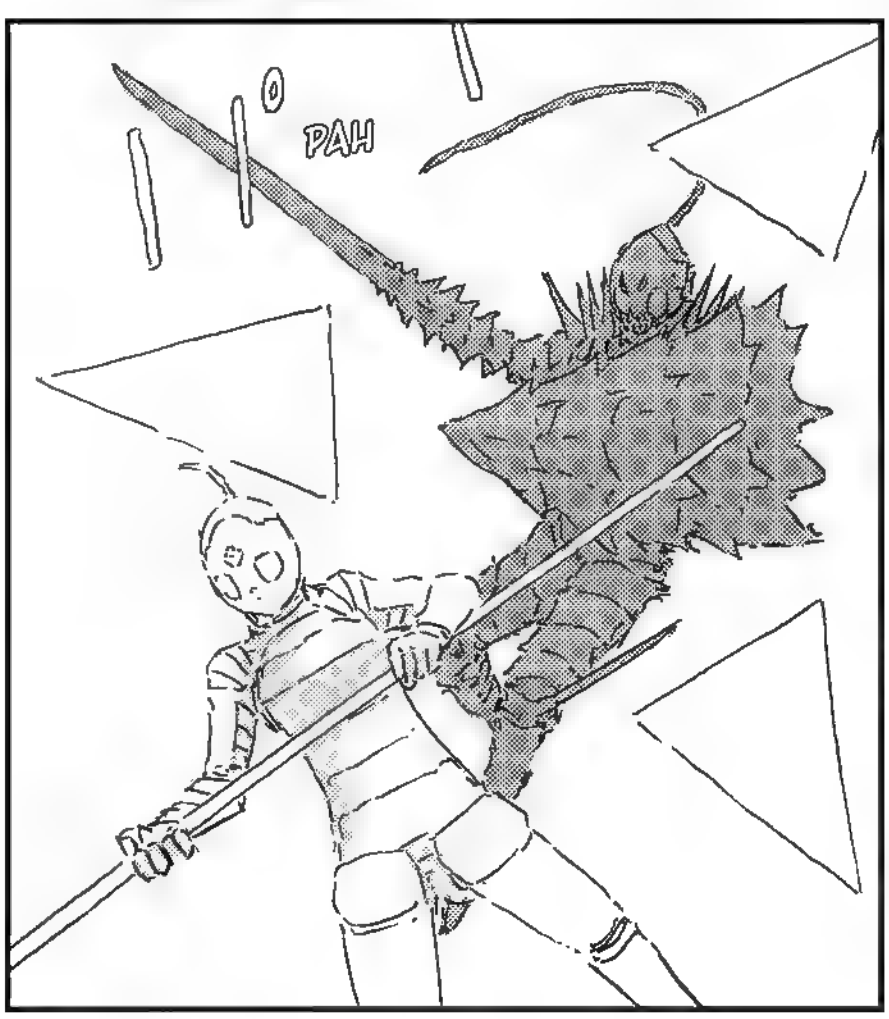

パキ…
KRUNCH

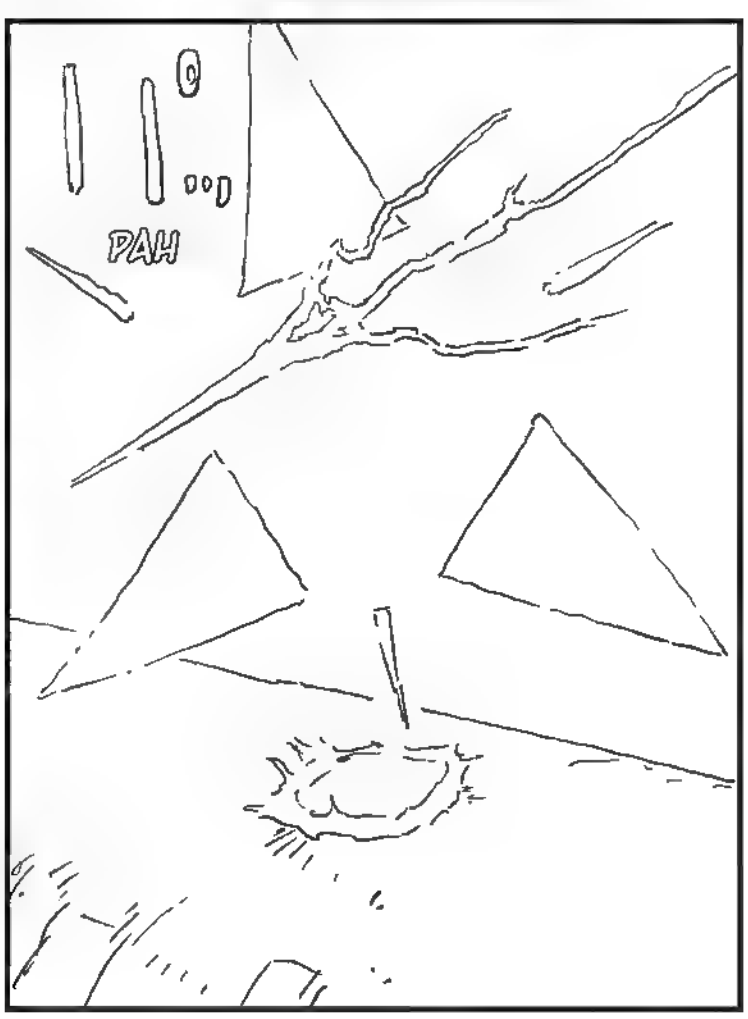


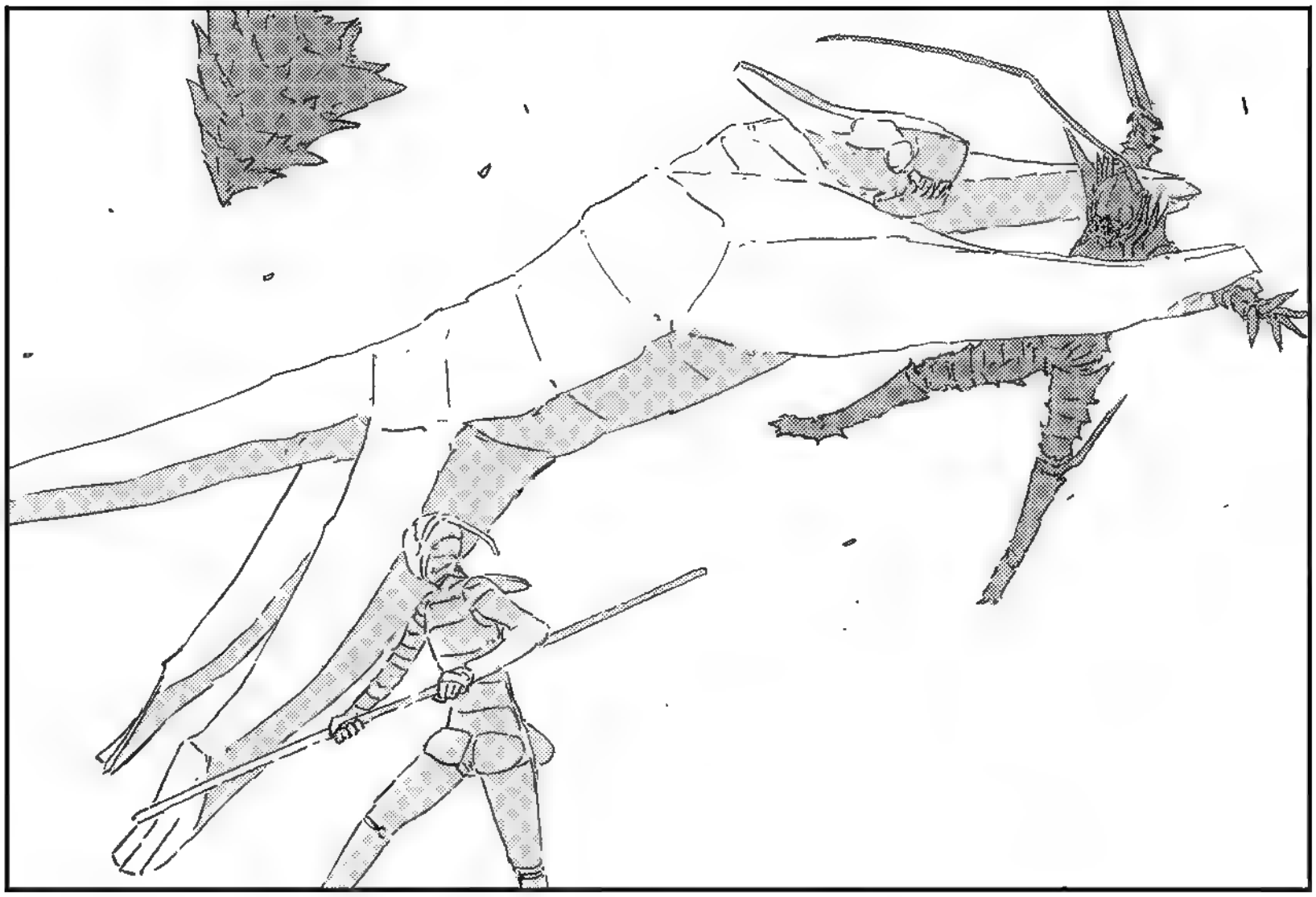

THAT'S SOME NASTY PLACENTA.
DRIP


KA BAM

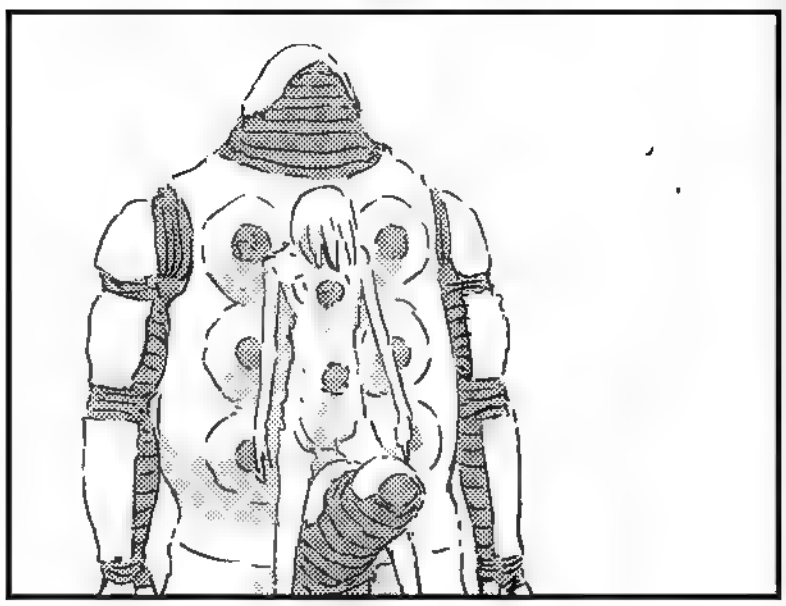

ZZAP


PAH

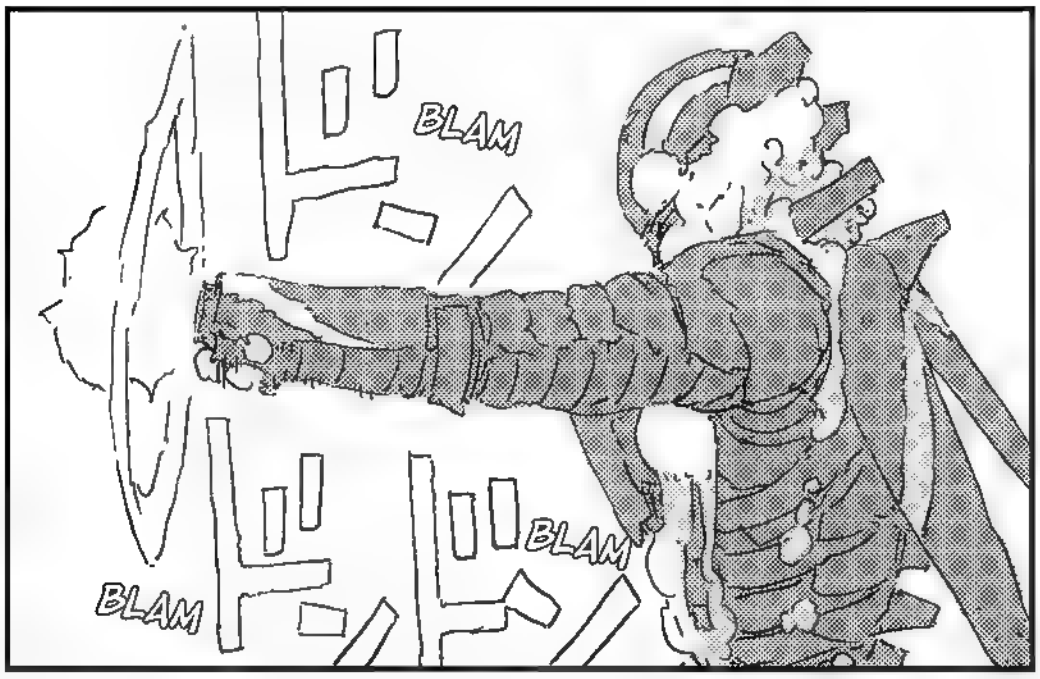

PAH

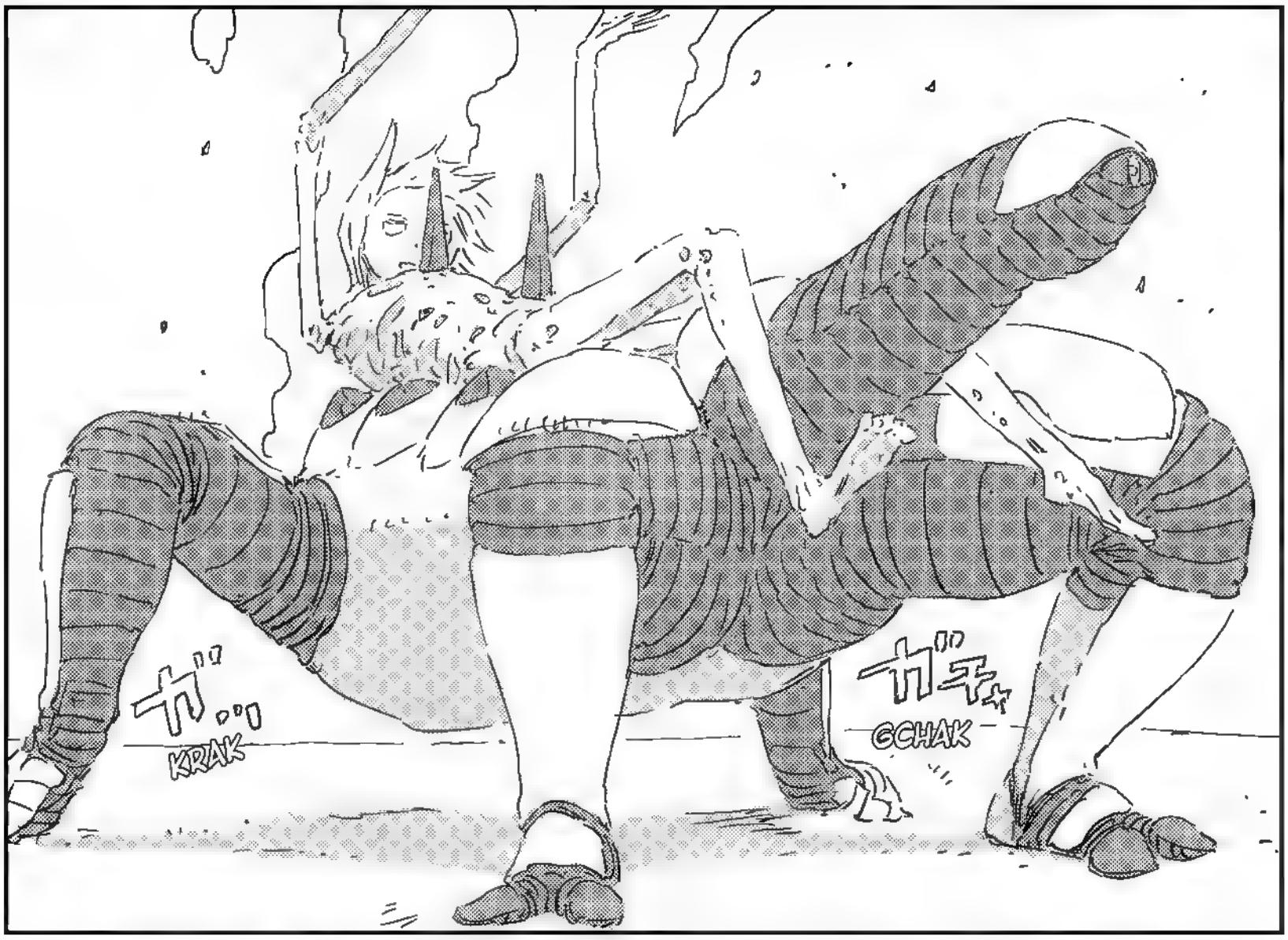


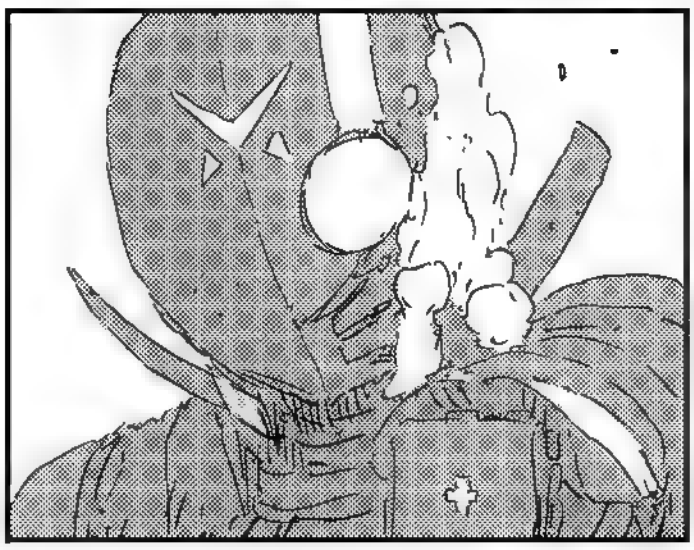
GYAAH!!

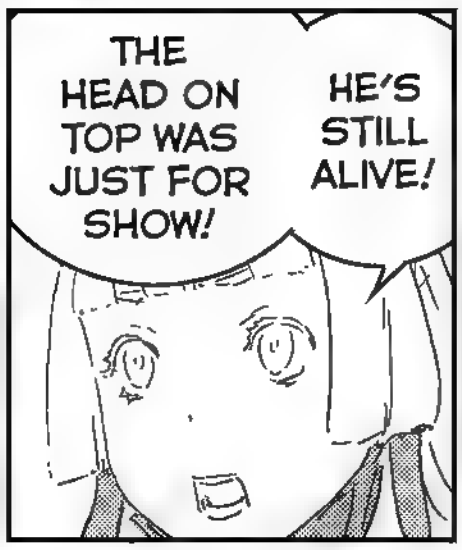


POW
BAM
BAM
BAM

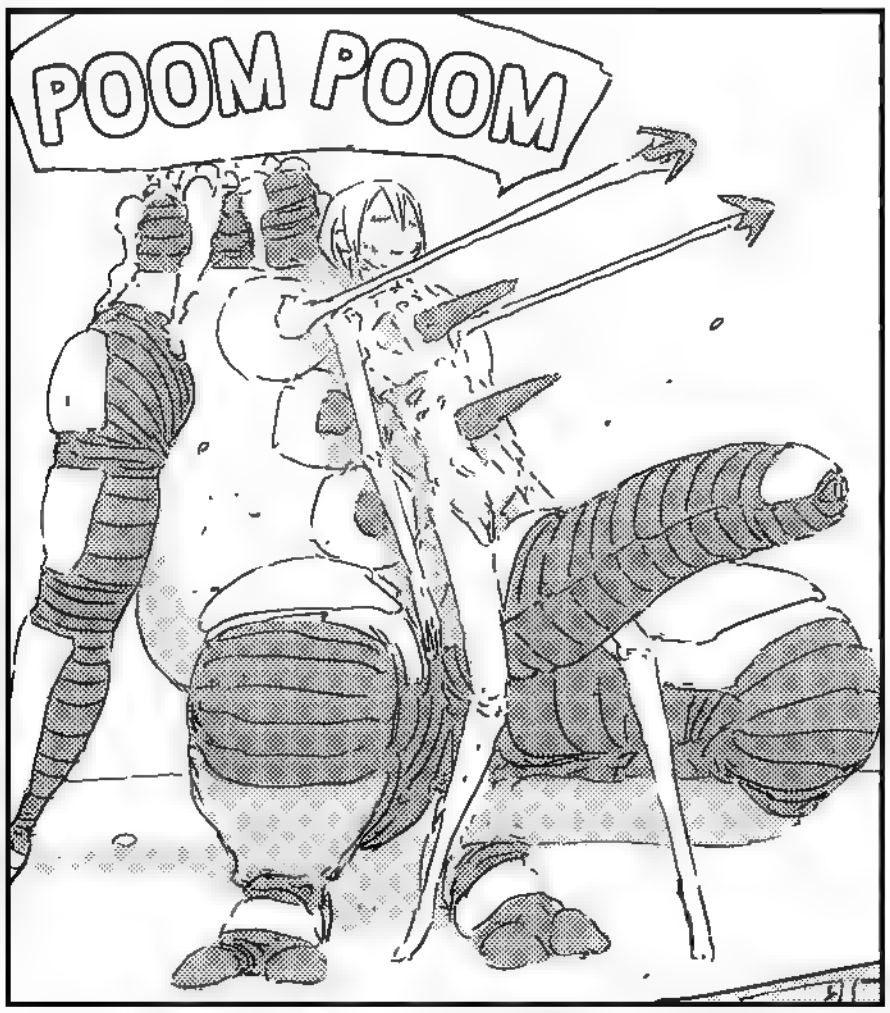

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

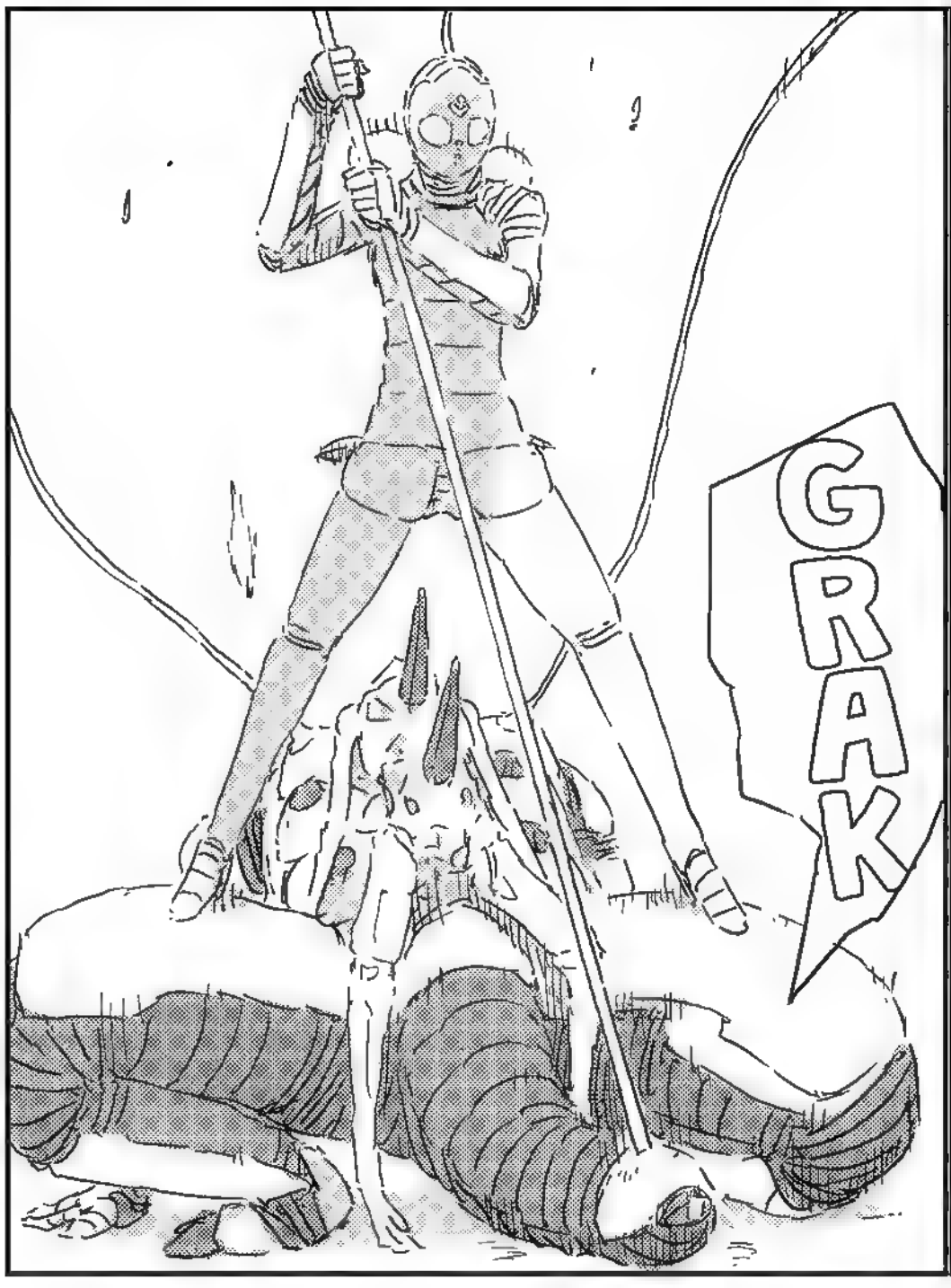

KRAK
GCHAK



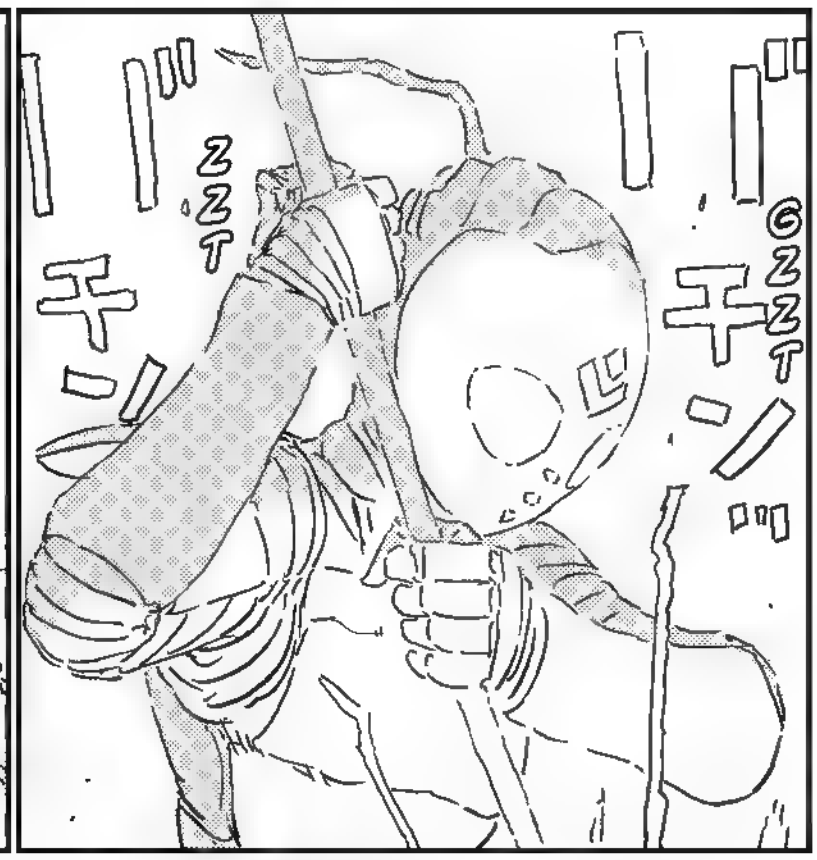

THE HEAD ON TOP WAS JUST FOR SHOW!
HE'S STILL ALIVE!

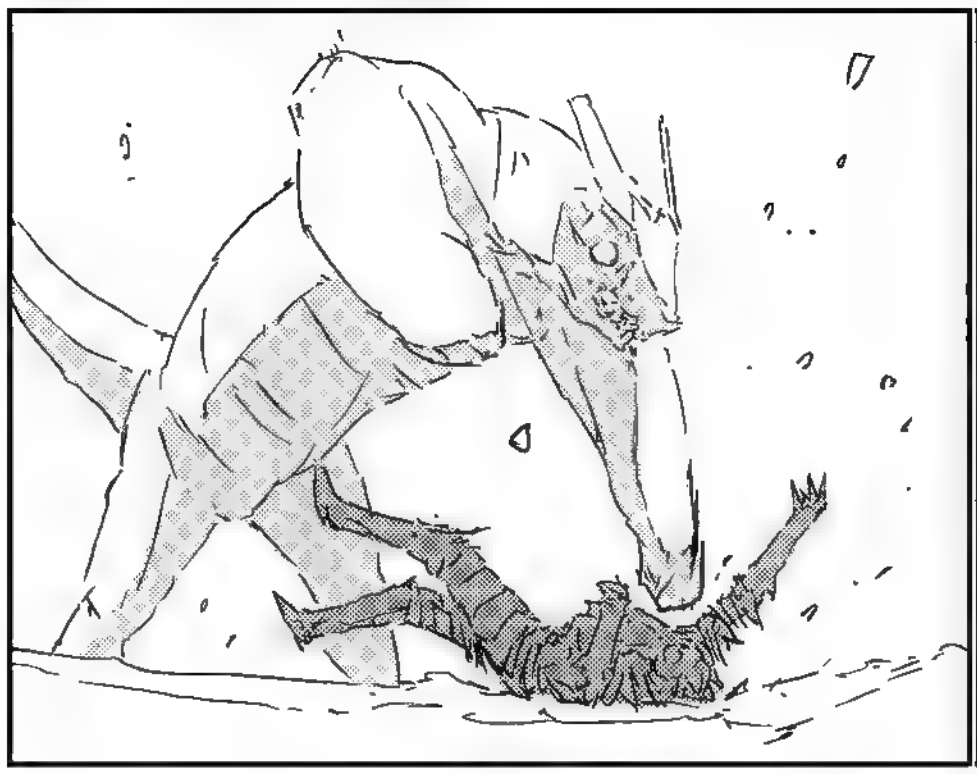
BLINK
BLINK

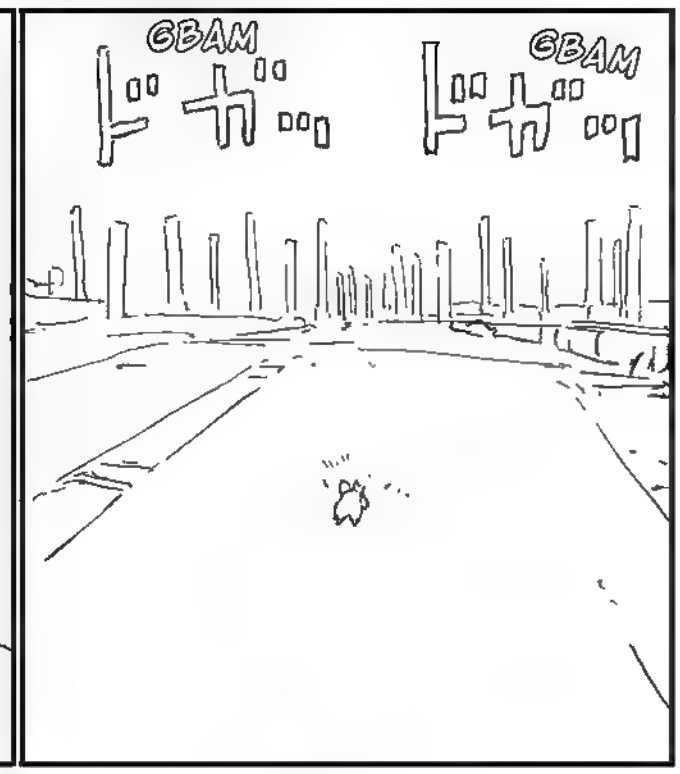

POOM POOM

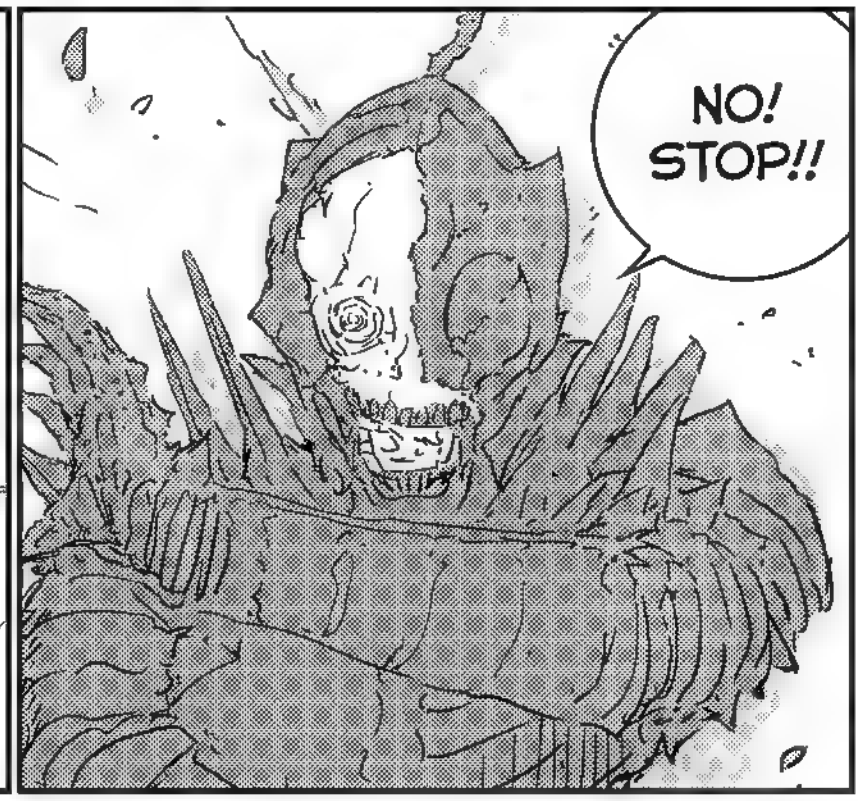

GRAK

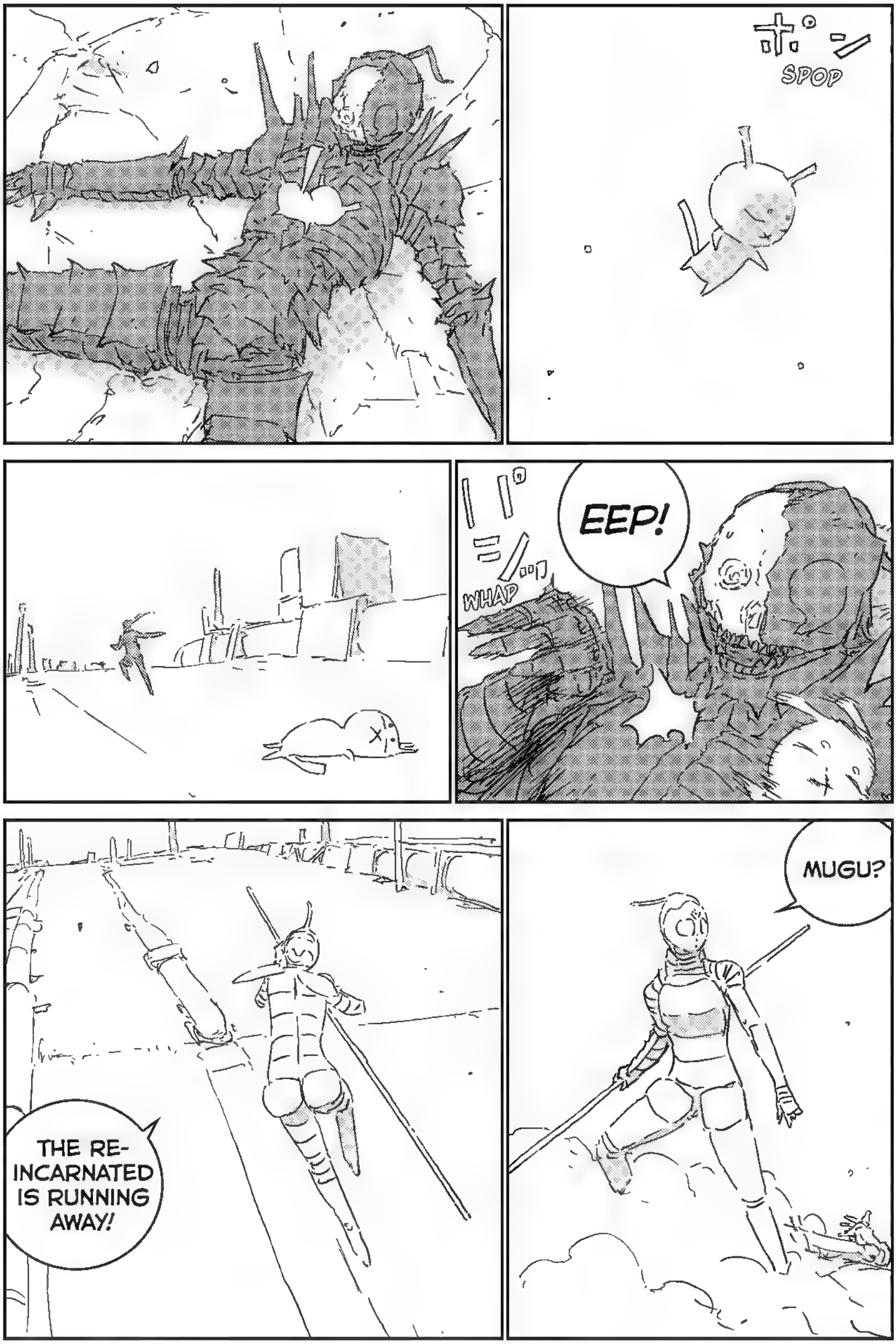
WHAM

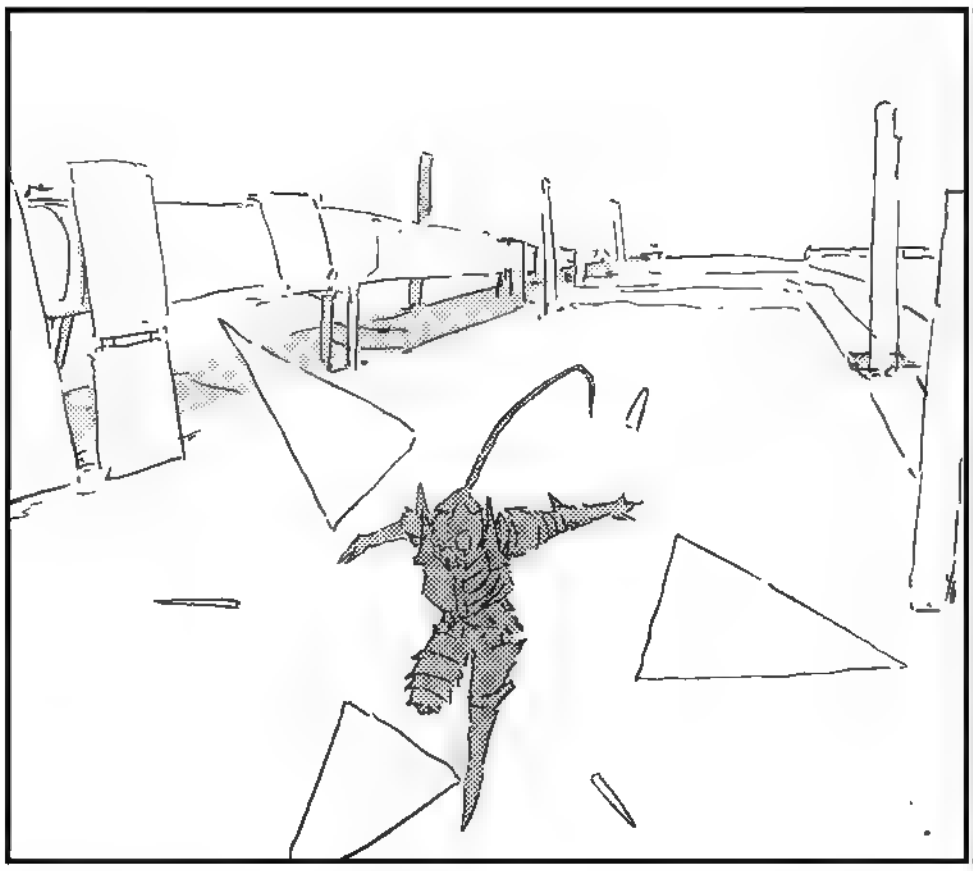

ZZZT
ZZZT



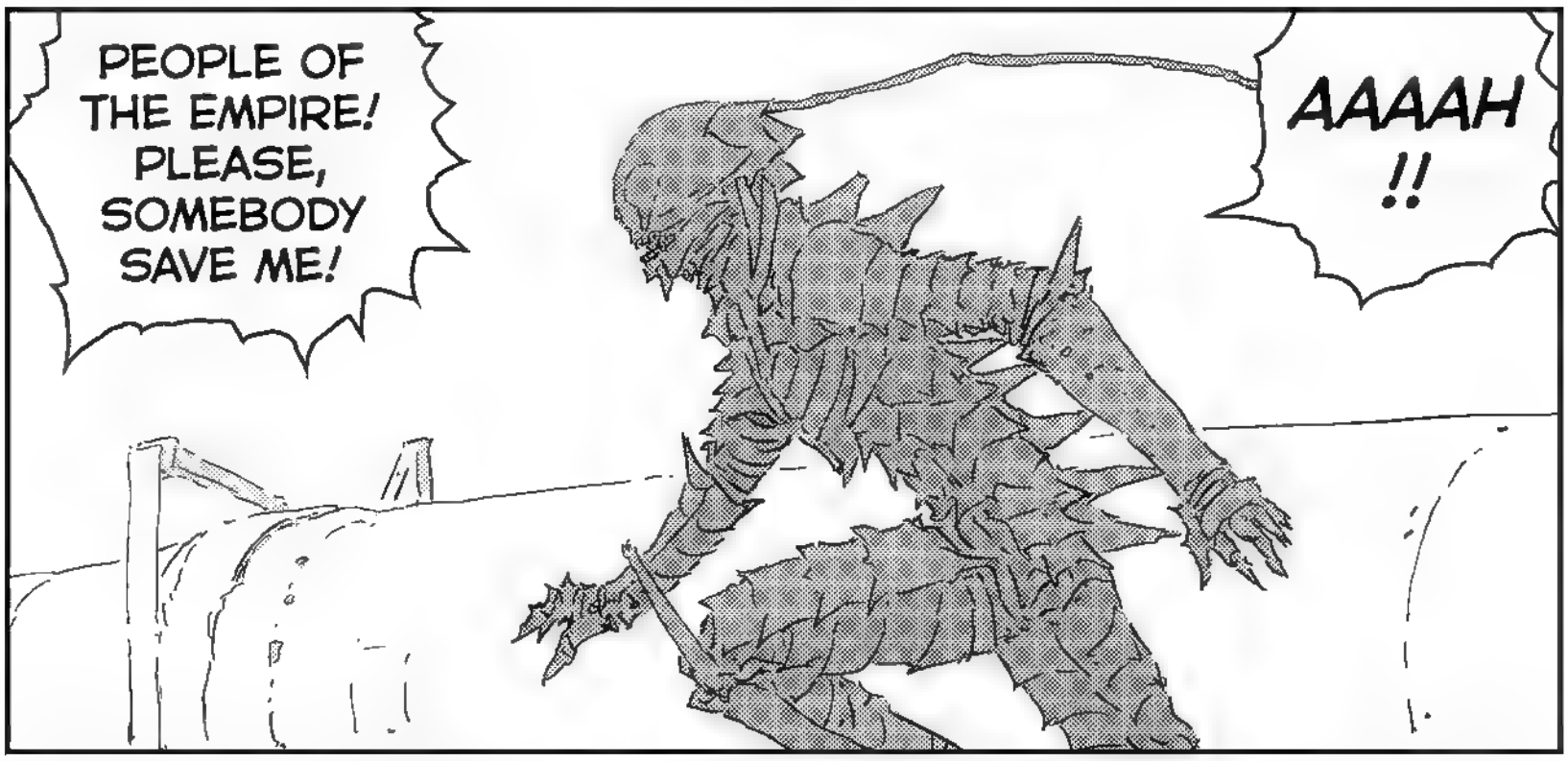

GBAM
GBAM

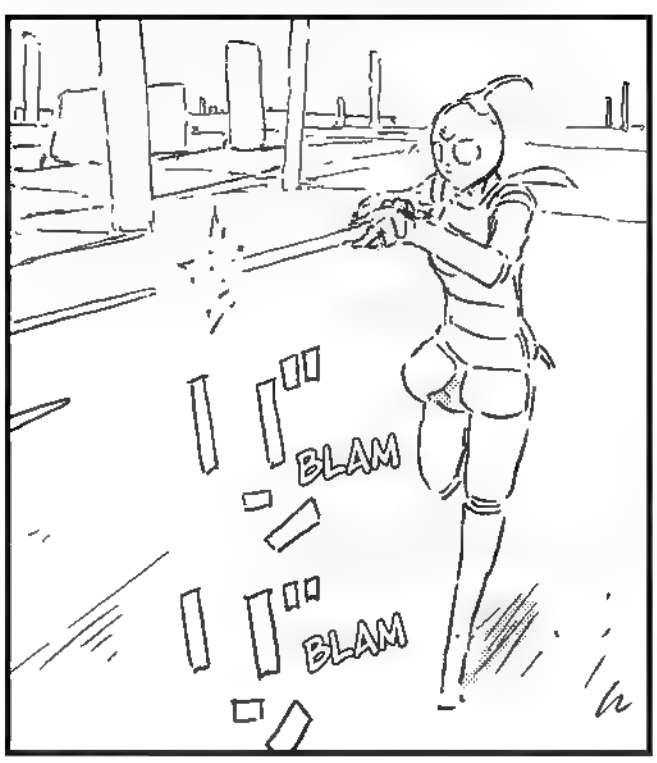

NO! STOP!!

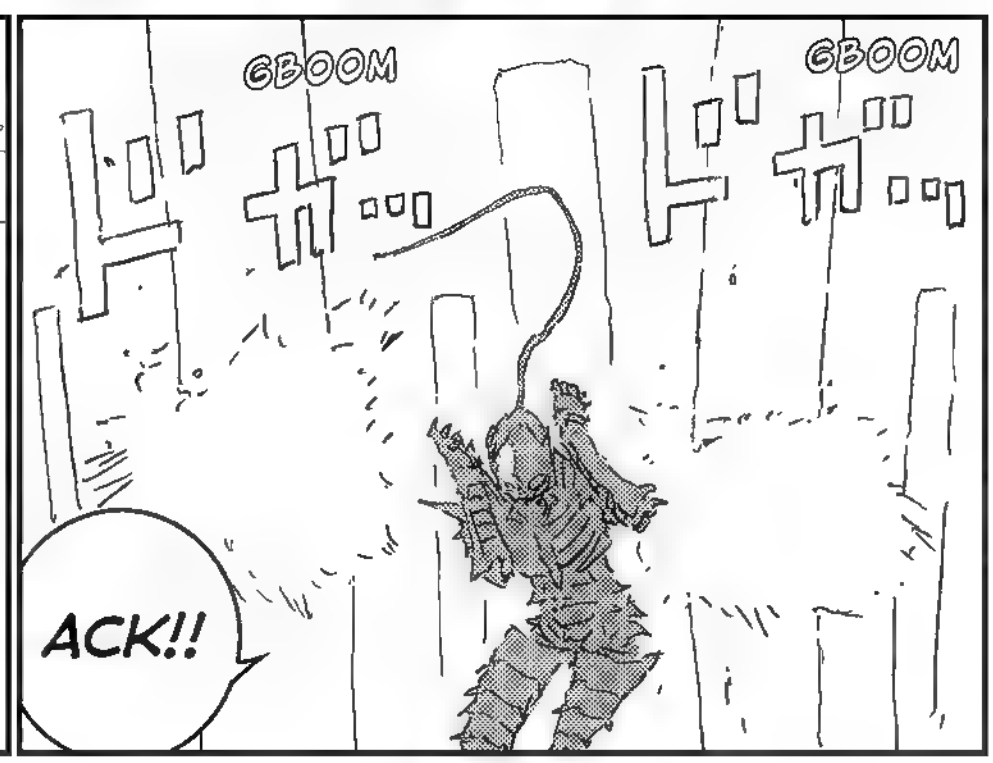

SPOP
EEP!
WHAP
MUGU?
THE RE-INCARNATED IS RUNNING AWAY!

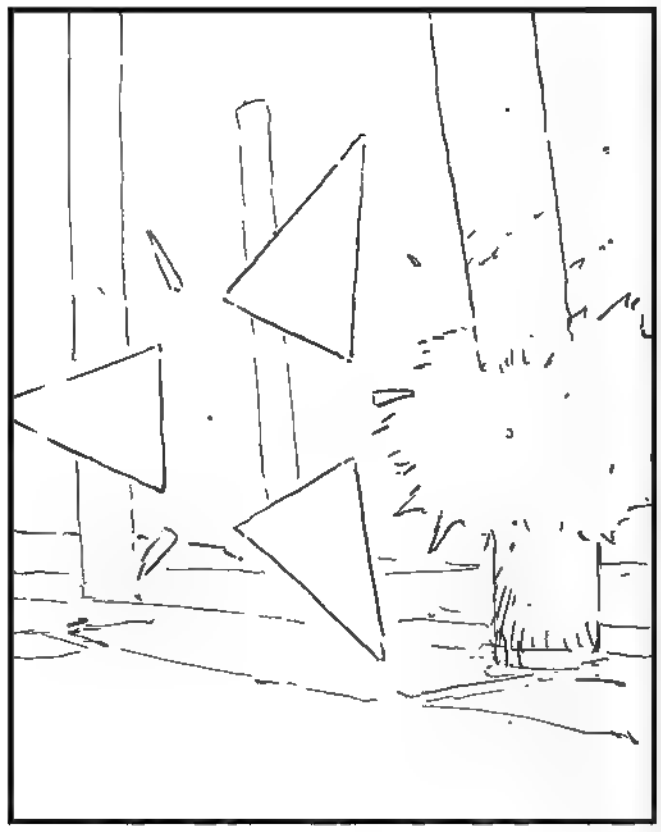


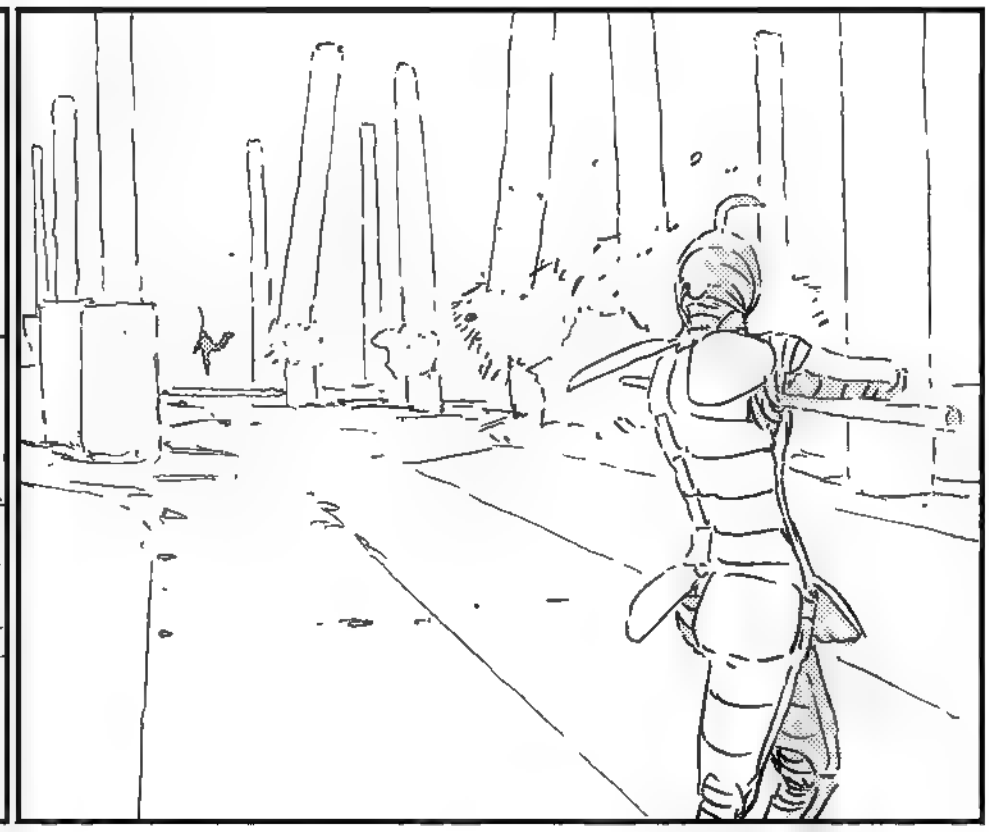
BE CAREFUL, KEISHA!

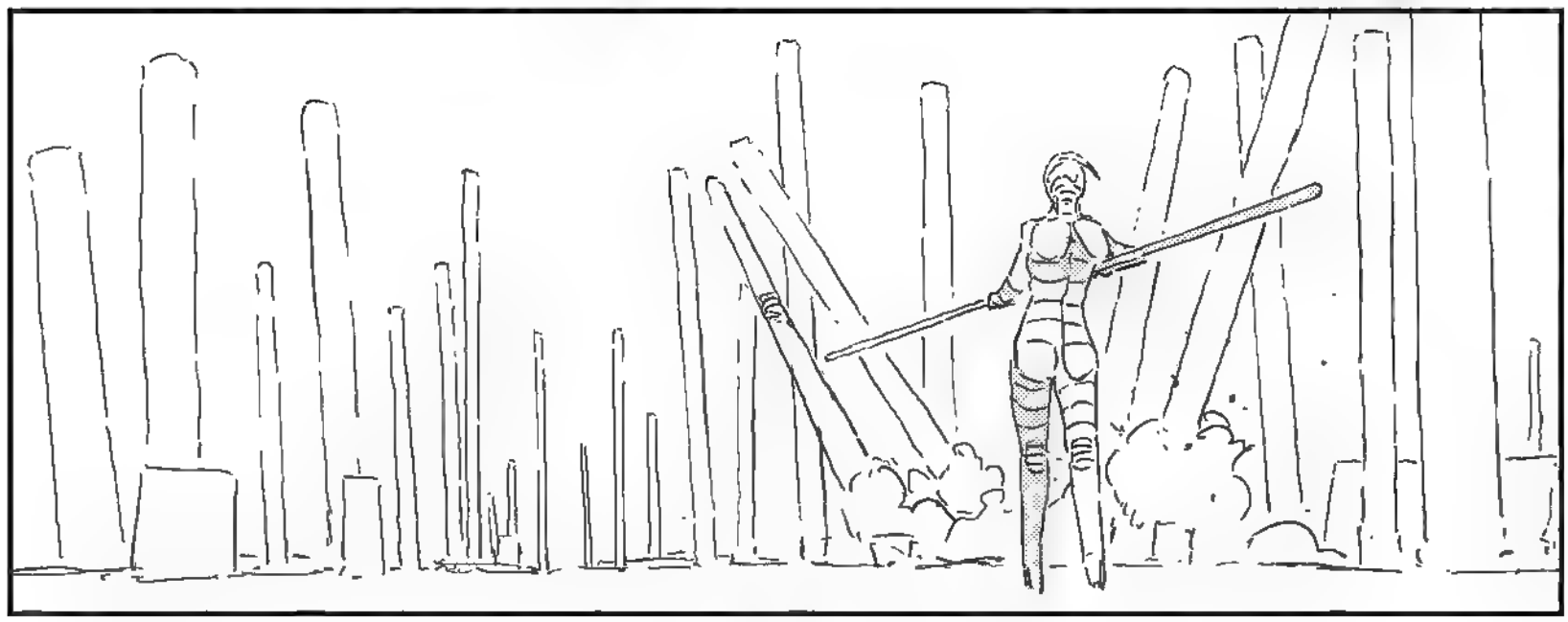

PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE! PLEASE, SOMEBODY SAVE ME!
AAAAH !!

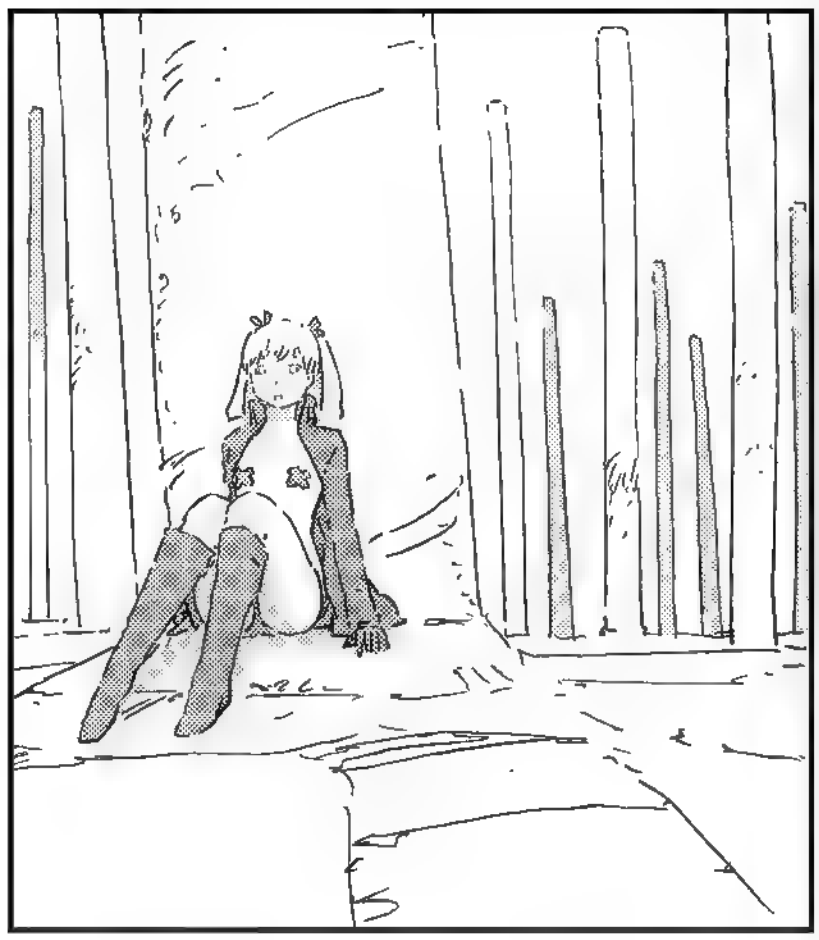

BLAM
BLAM

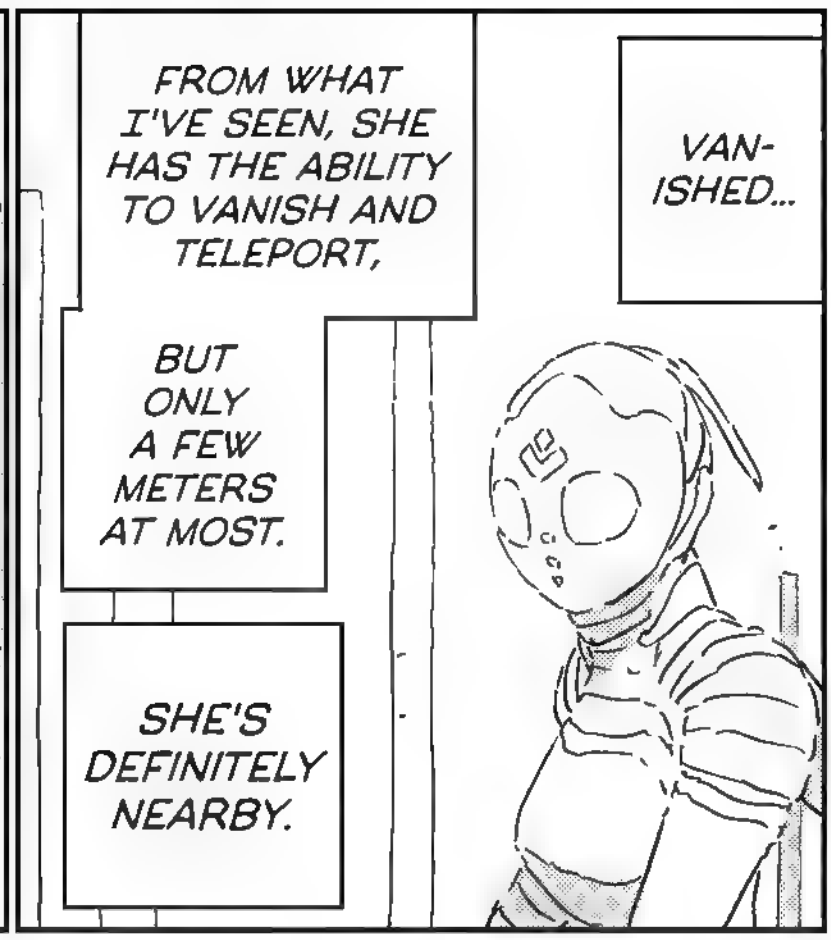

GBOOM
GBOOM
ACK!!

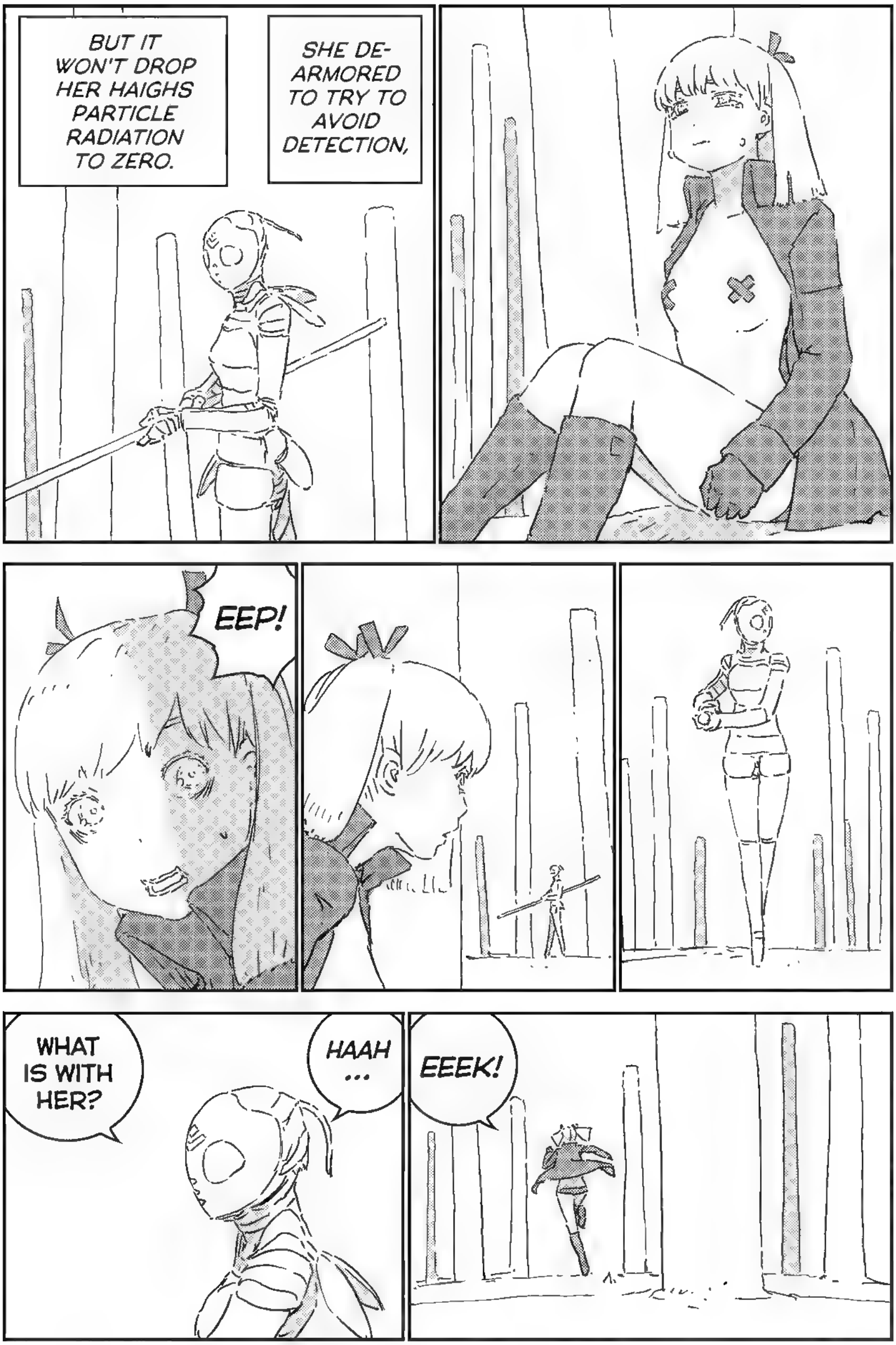






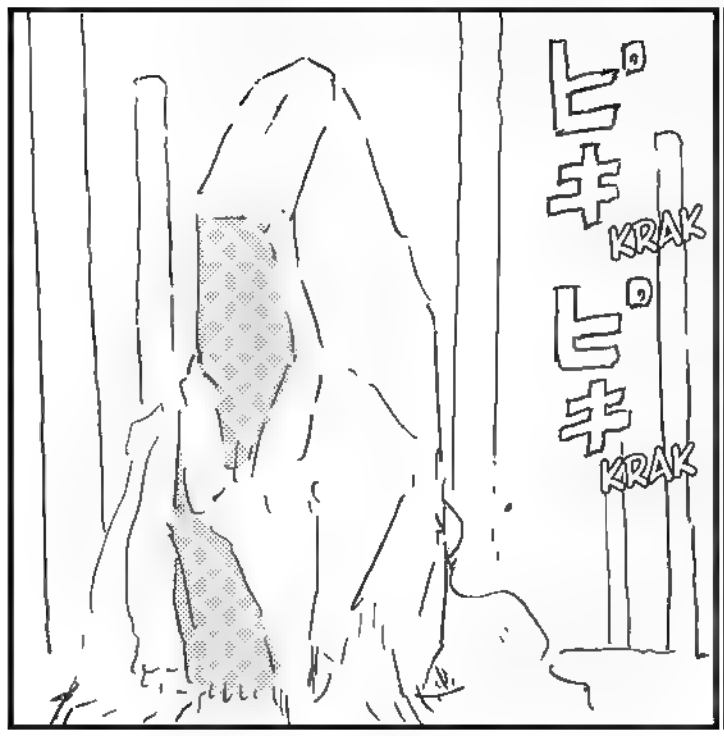


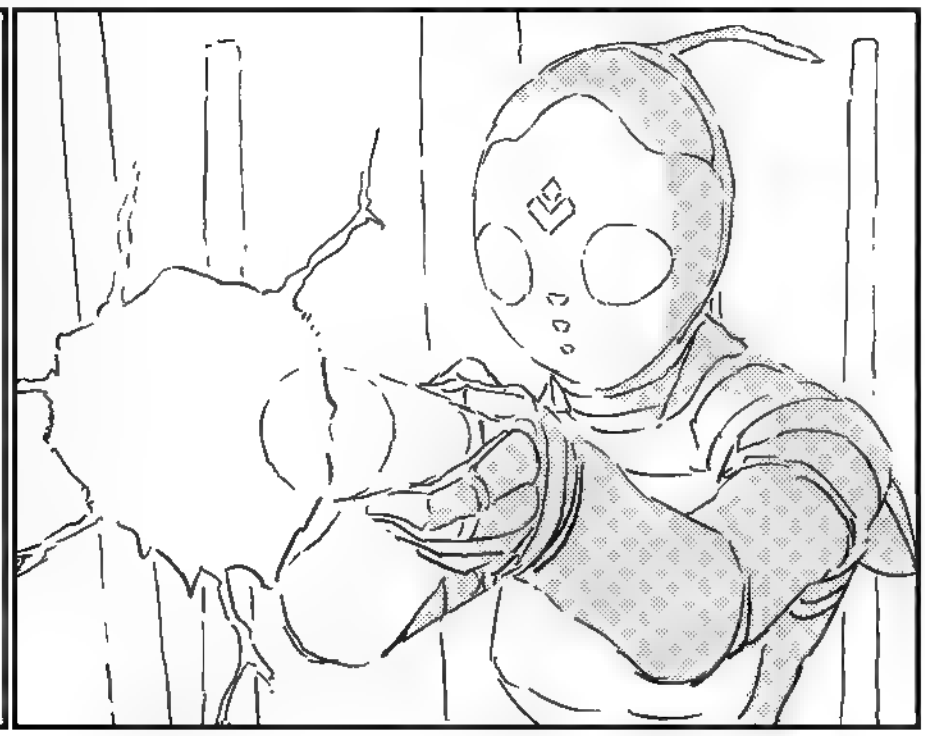

FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO VANISH AND TELEPORT,
VAN-ISHED...
BUT ONLY A FEW METERS AT MOST.
SHE'S DEFINITELY NEARBY.

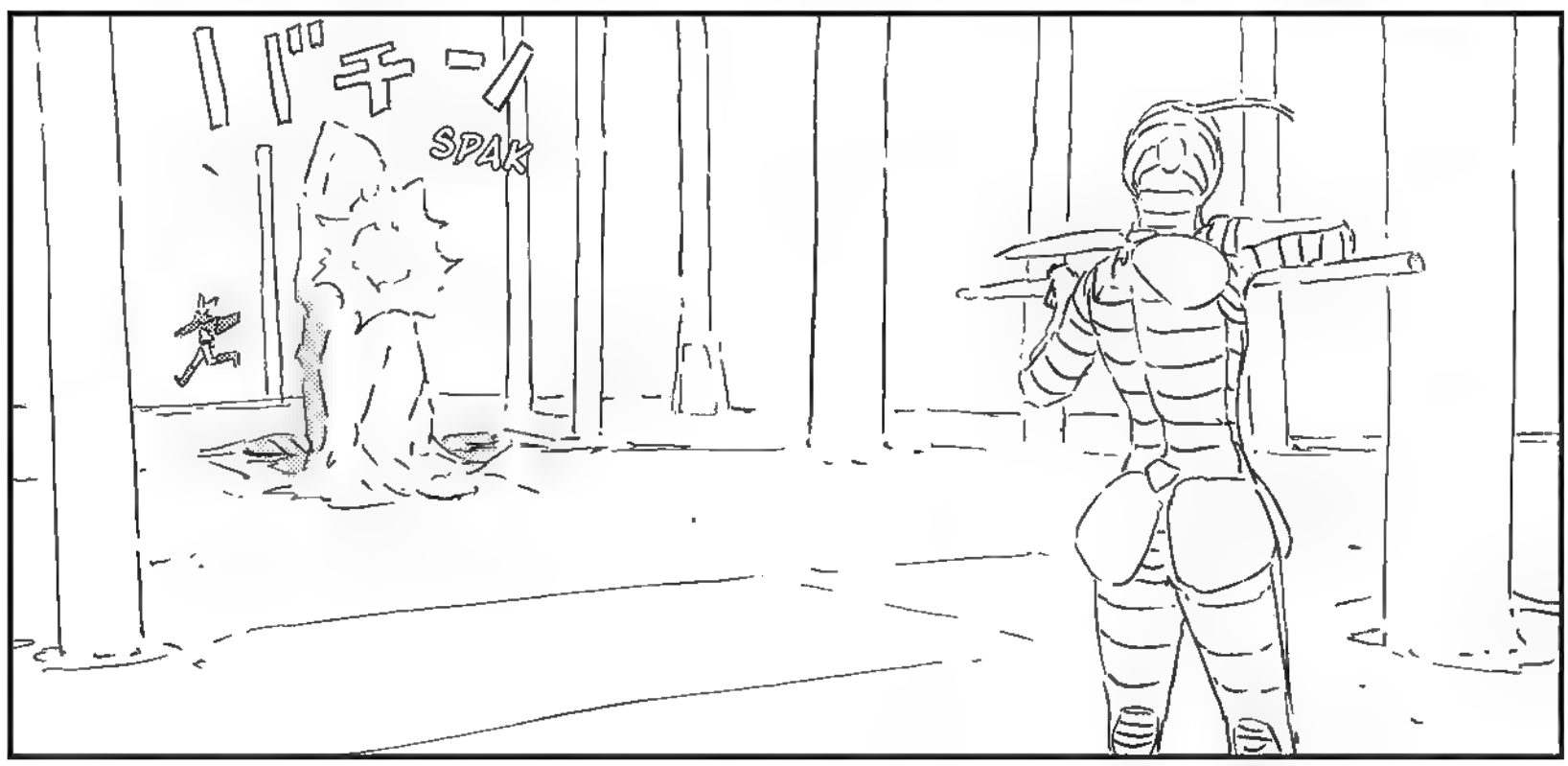

BUT IT WON'T DROP HER HAIGHS PARTICLE RADIATION TO ZERO.
SHE DE-ARMORED TO TRY TO AVOID DETECTION,
EEP!
WHAT IS WITH HER?
HAAH ...
EEEK!

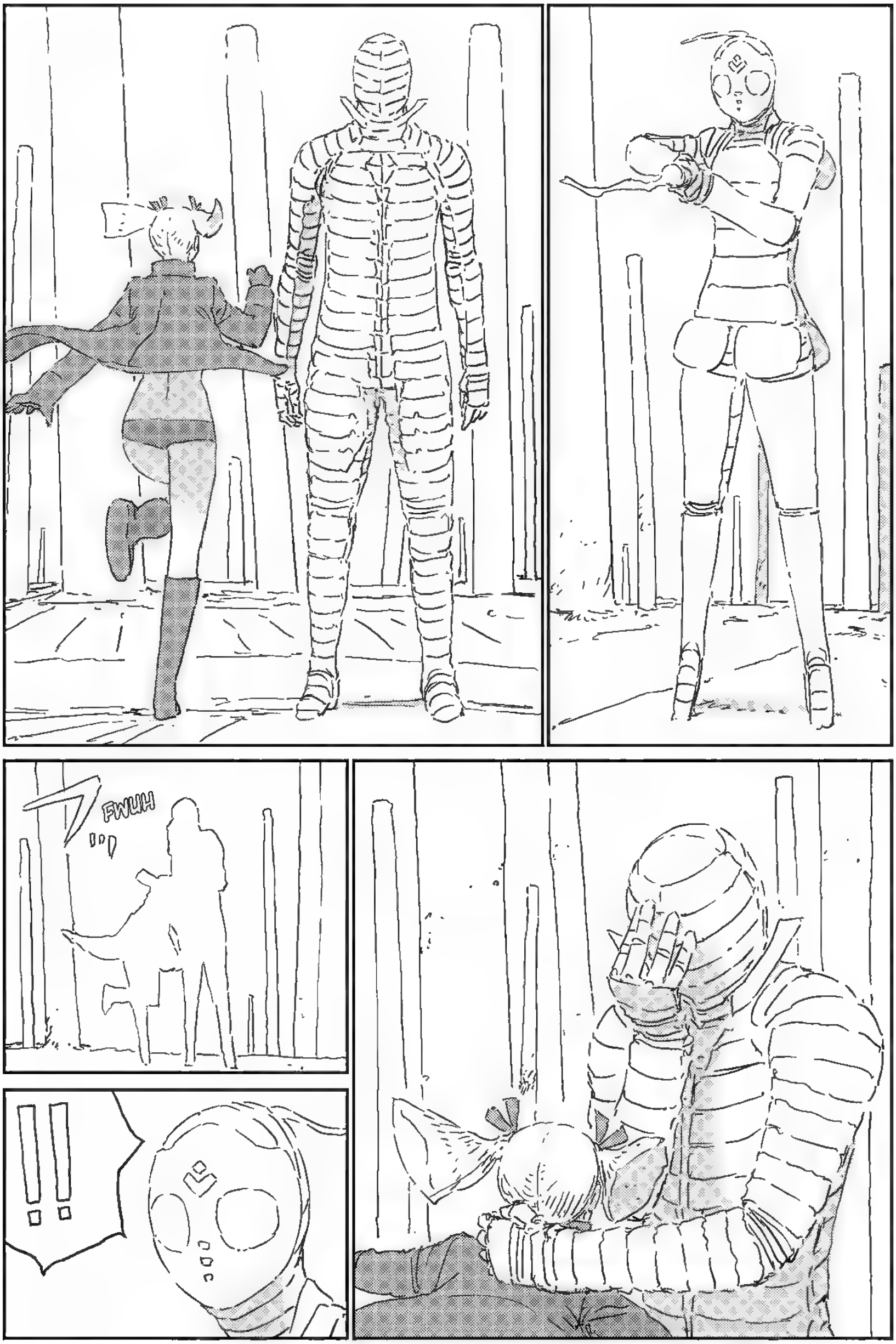
ALOOONE!

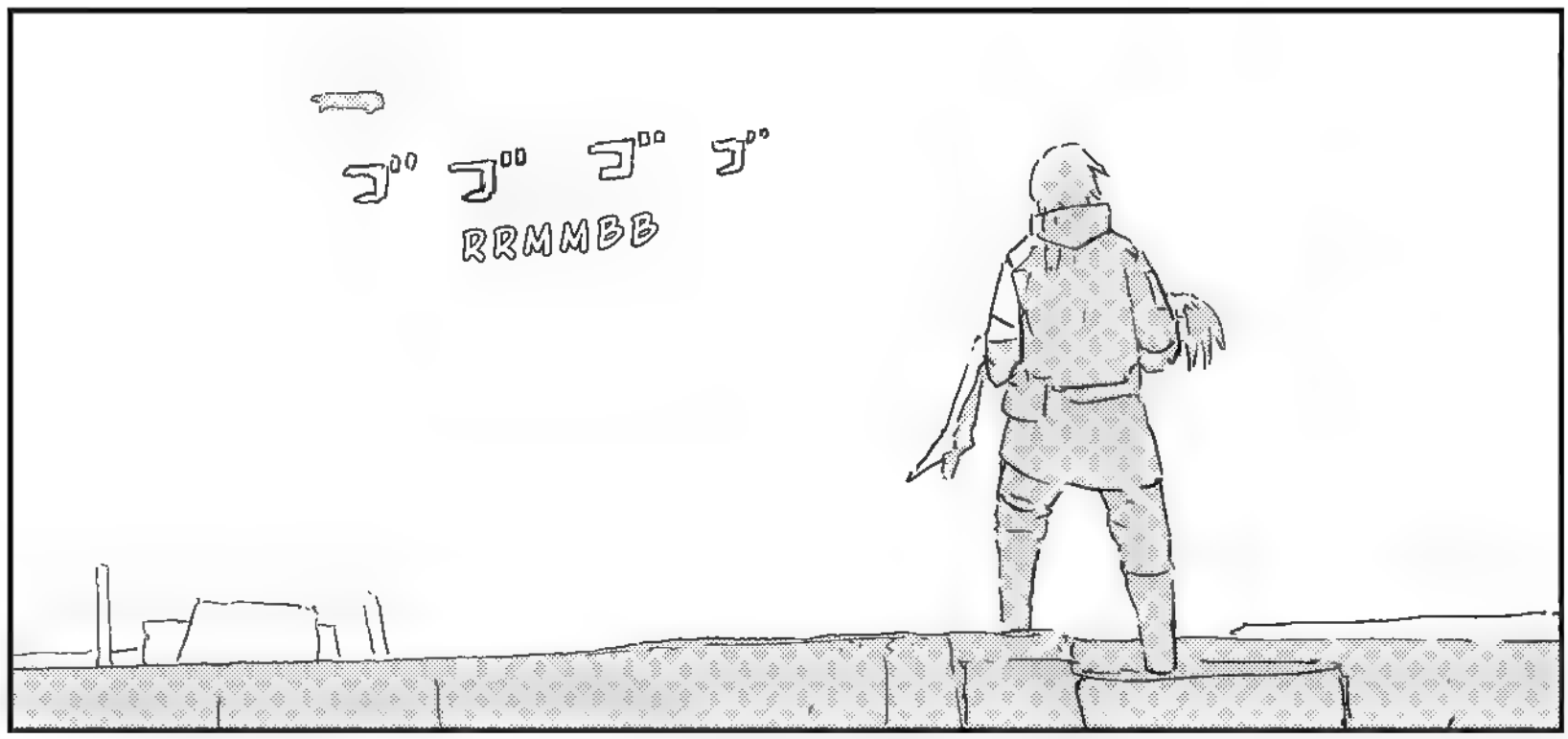
MEEE!
LEEEAVE!

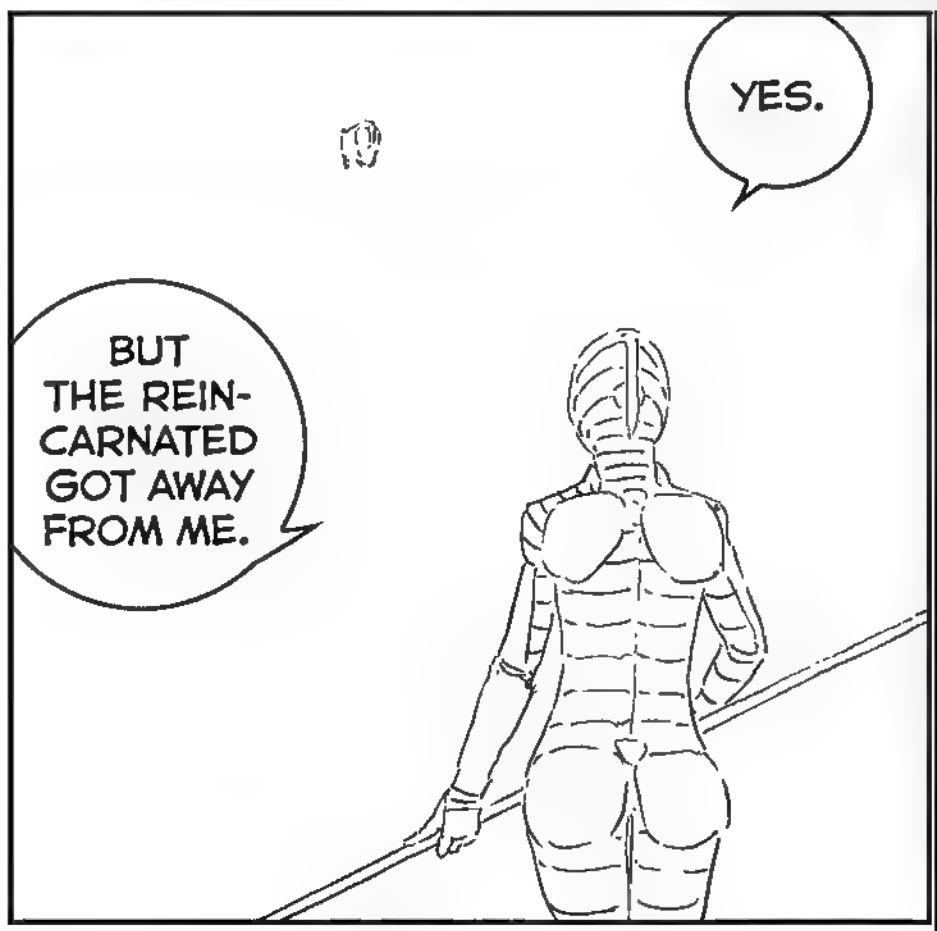

ピキ
KRAK
ピキ
KRAK

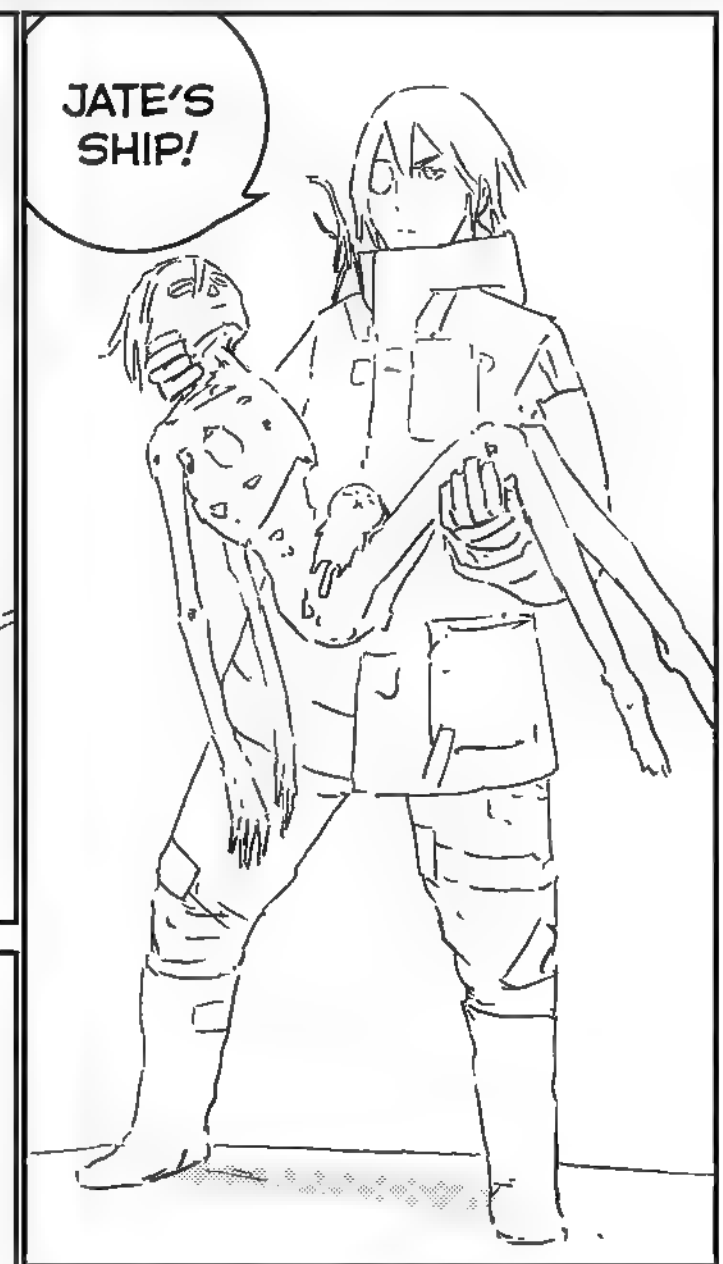


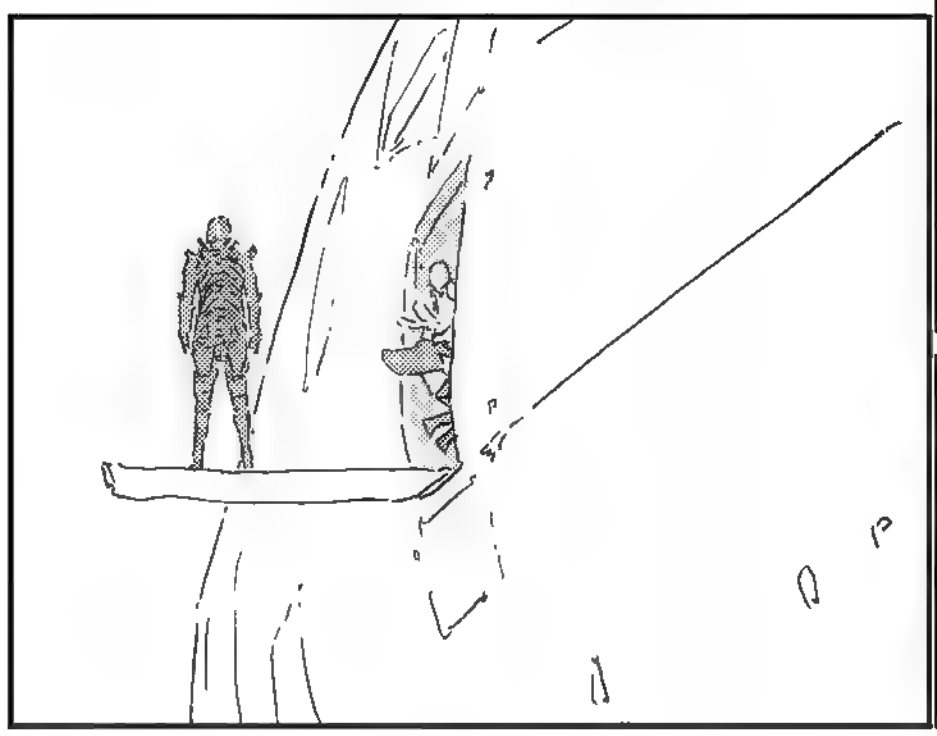

バチーン
SPAK


FWUH
!!


ゴ゜ ゴ゜ ゴ゜ ゴ゜
RRMMBB


YES.
BUT THE REIN-CARNATED GOT AWAY FROM ME.


JATE'S SHIP!



ARE YOU OKAY, KEISHA?

RRMMBB
STAY ON ALERT UNTIL SHE'S BEEN SAFELY RETURNED.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JATE.
I APPRECIATE YOU WORKING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO ME,
WAAHN! THAT WAS SO SCARY!
UNTIL NEXT TIME, TREASURE HUNTERS.

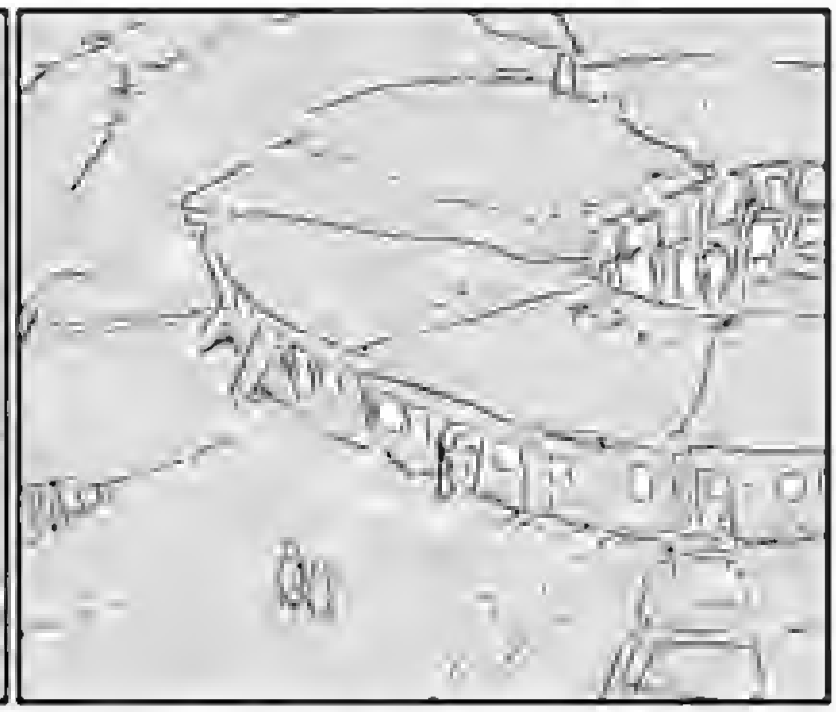
PSSHHT
KOOM
!!

I'M GONNA TELL ON THEM TO BIG BROTHER DENJI!

THINGS ARE HARD FOR REINCAR-NATEDS, TOO.
THEY REALLY *WERE* HUMAN TO BEGIN WITH.

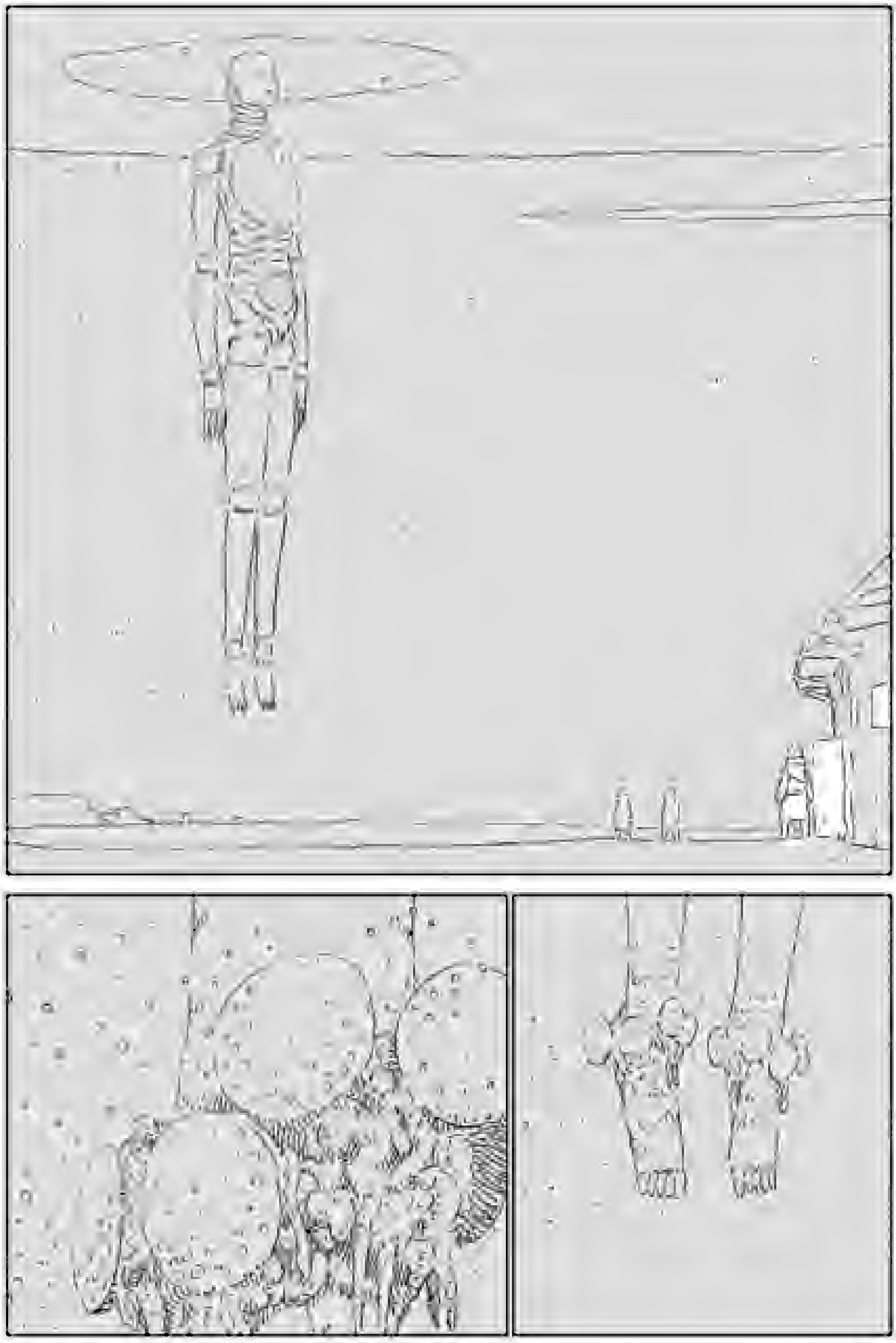
WHY DO I HAVE TO WORK FOR *HIM?!*
JATE.
IT'S NOT FOR NEWKEY.
WE HELPED BECAUSE SHE'S GENERAL KUDOH'S SISTER.

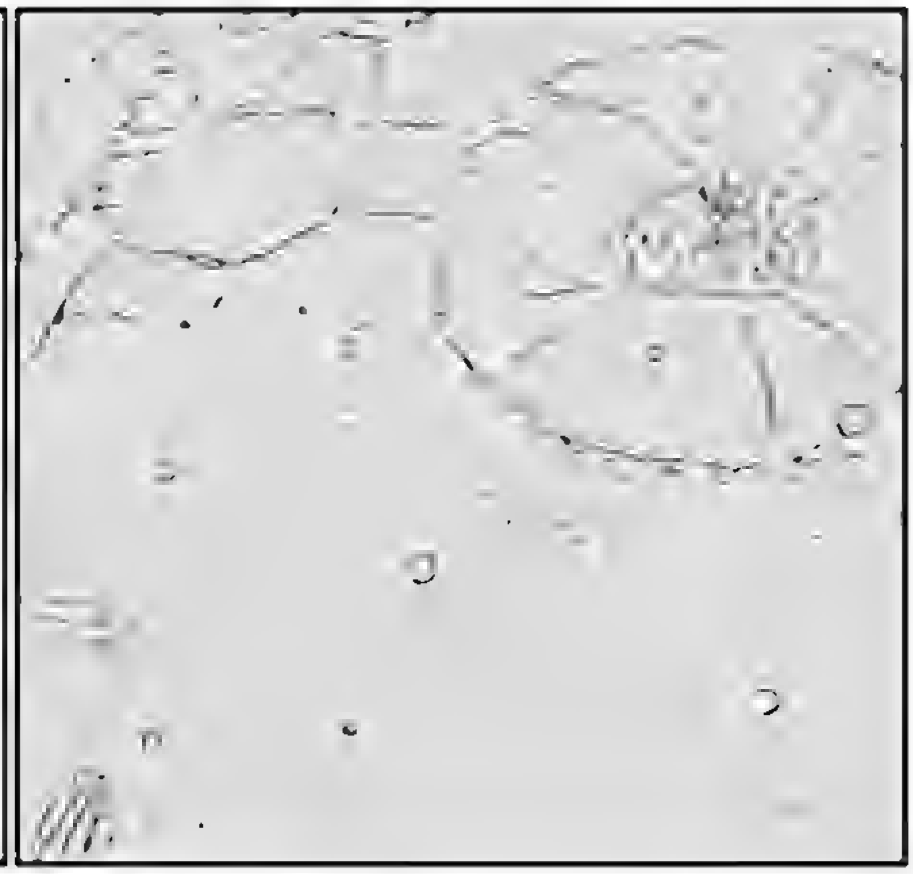
IT'S ALREADY NIGHT! COME INSIDE!



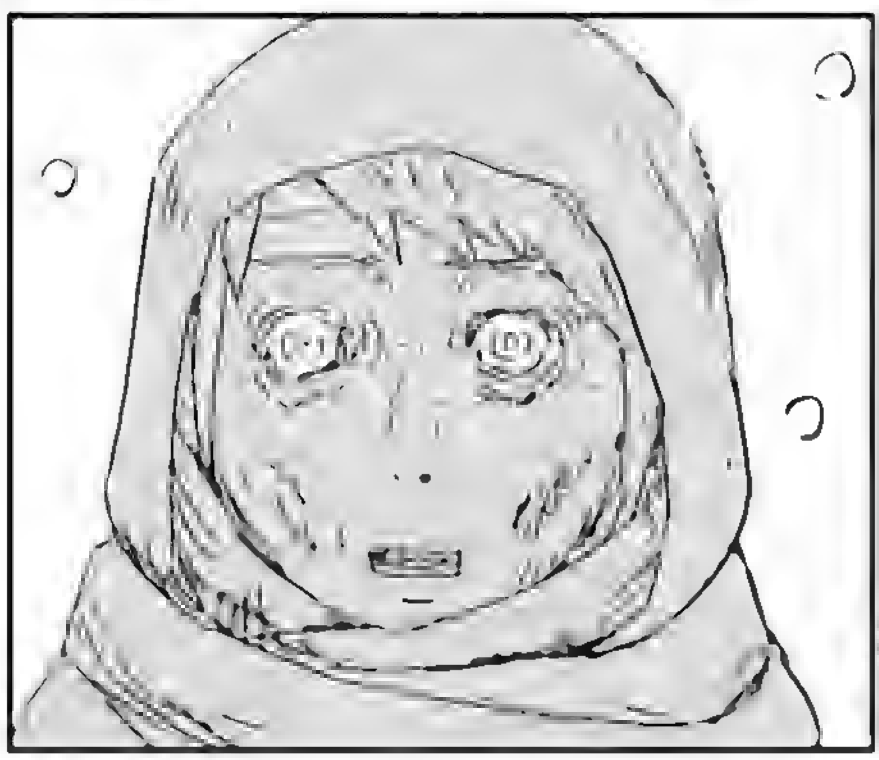
!!

WE'LL BE FINE.
HUH? BUT IT'S NOT COLD YET.

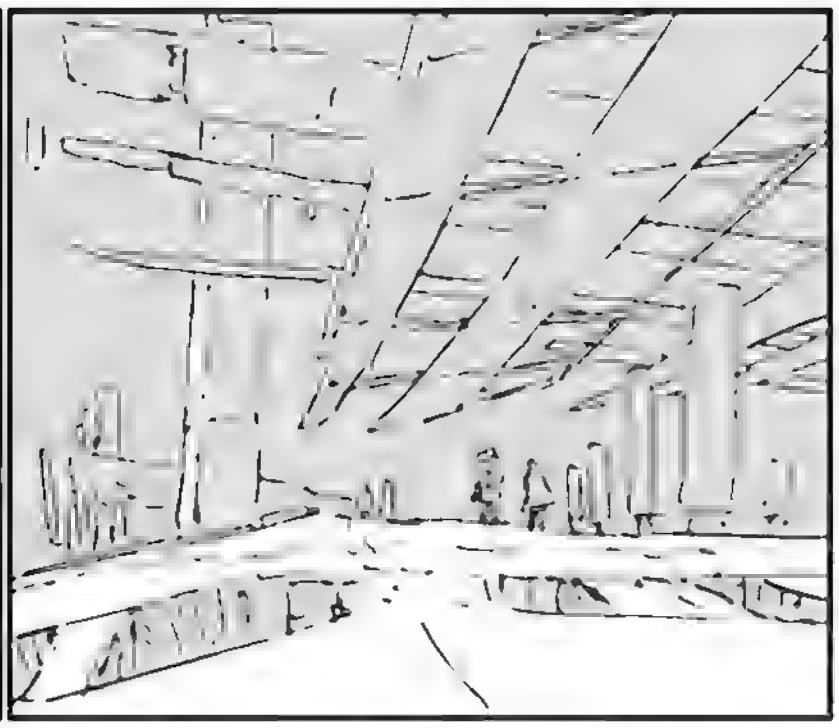




WHAT IS THIS?!

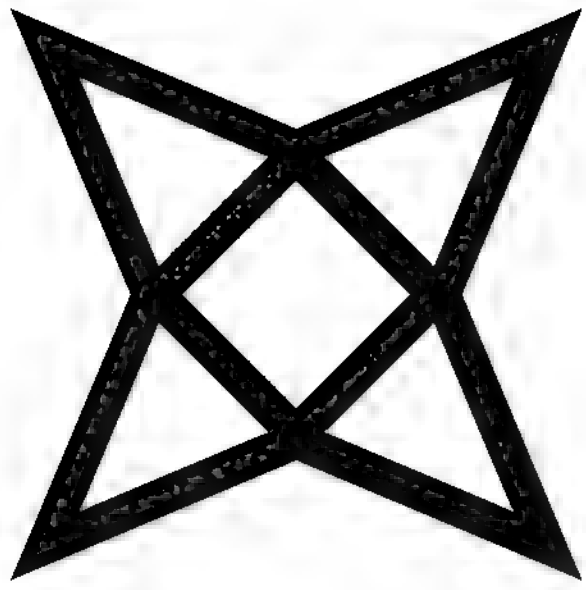


MOM?

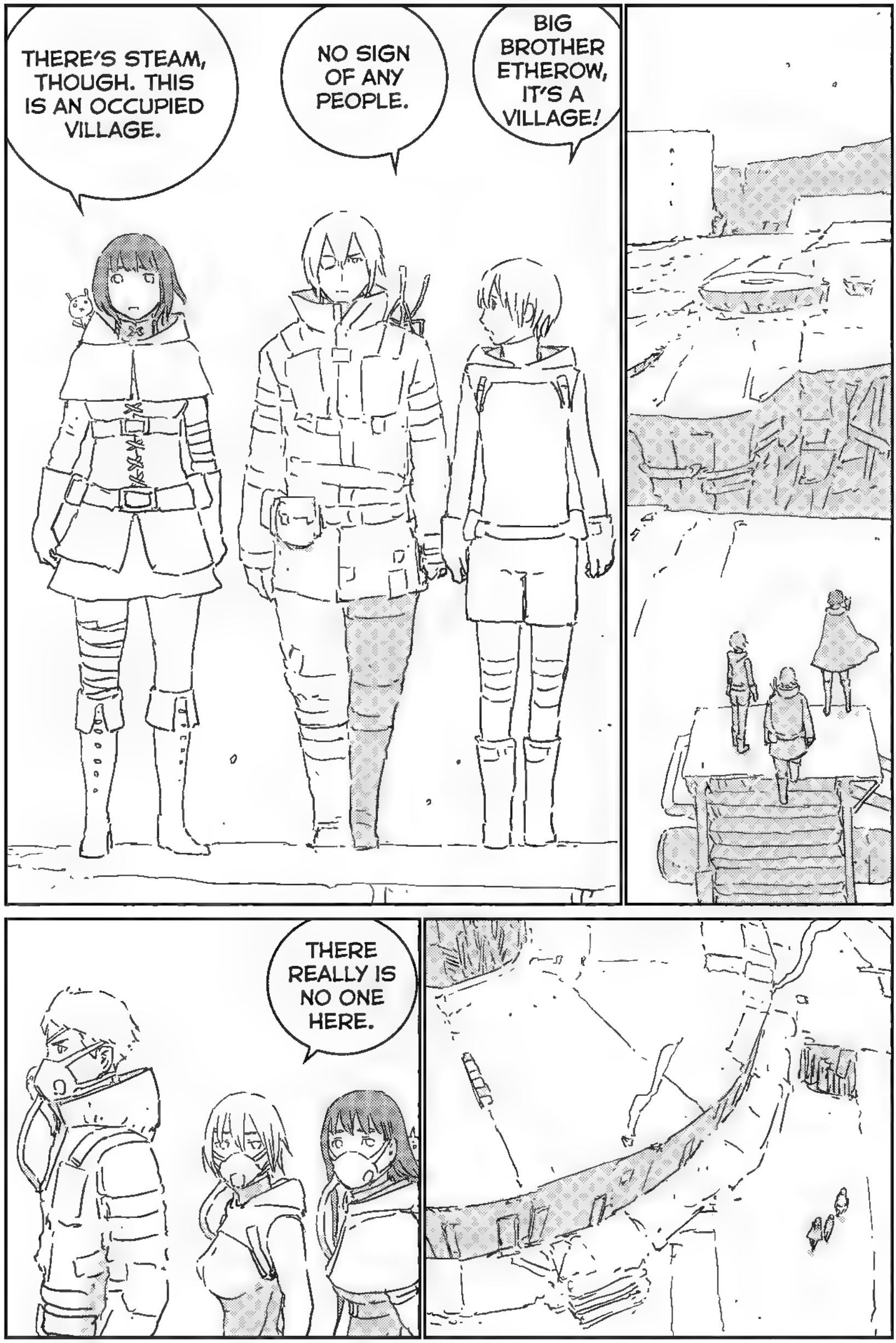


CHAPTER 45 END

APOSIMZ

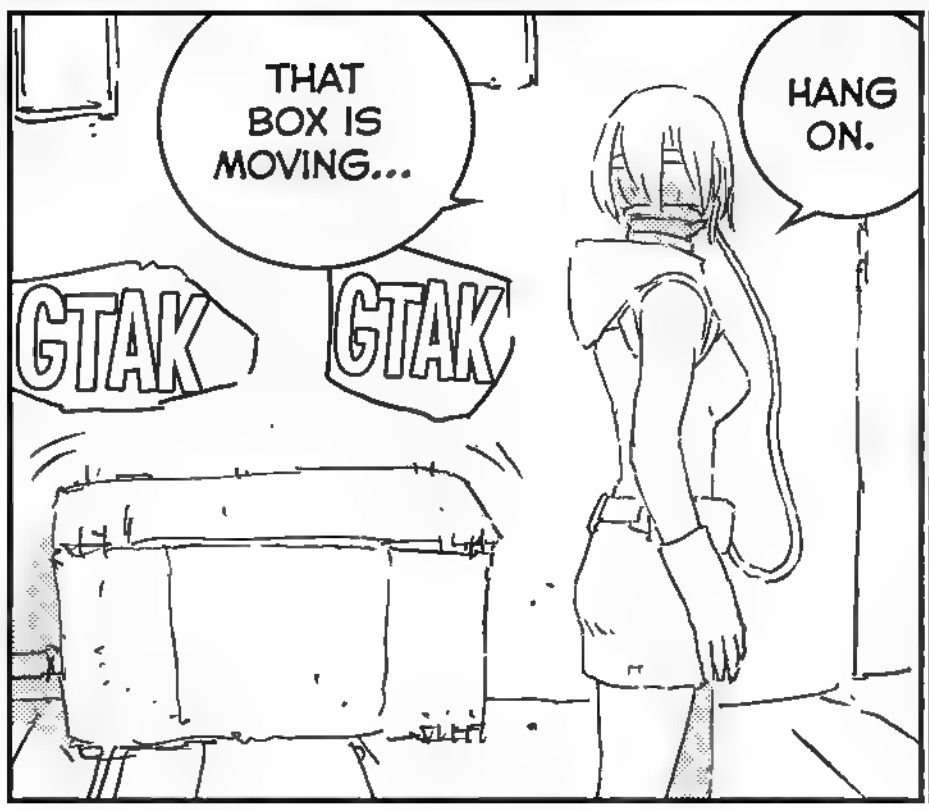


CHAPTER 46

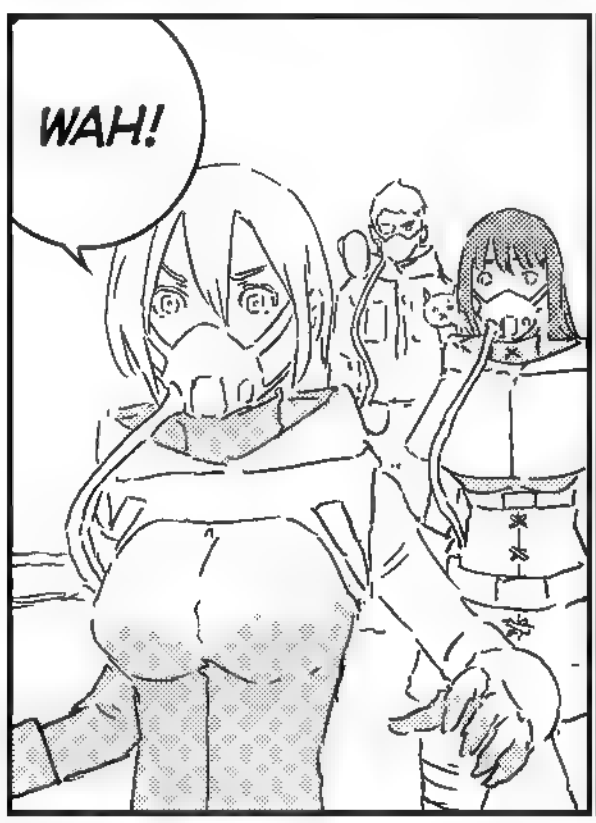

THERE'S STEAM, THOUGH. THIS IS AN OCCUPIED VILLAGE.
NO SIGN OF ANY PEOPLE.
BIG BROTHER ETHEROW, IT'S A VILLAGE!
THERE REALLY IS NO ONE HERE.

SO IT GOT TO THIS VILLAGE, TOO...

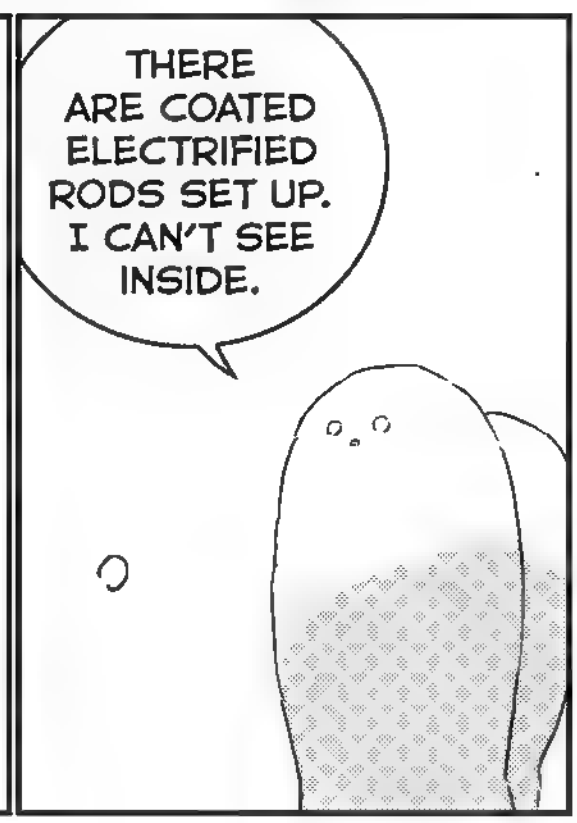
CONTAMI-NANT!


THAT BOX IS MOVING...
HANG ON.
GTAK
GTAK

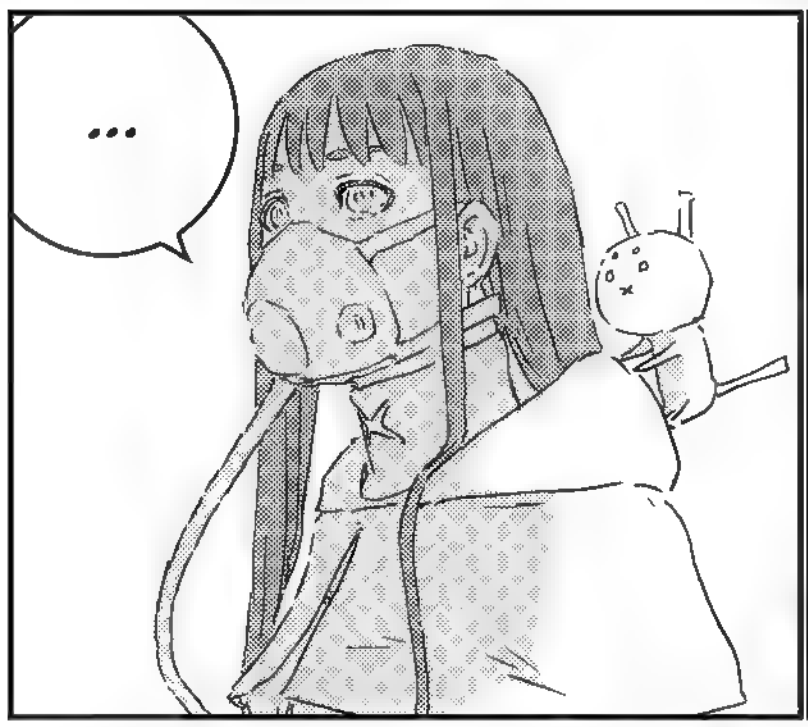
!!
GTAK
GTAK

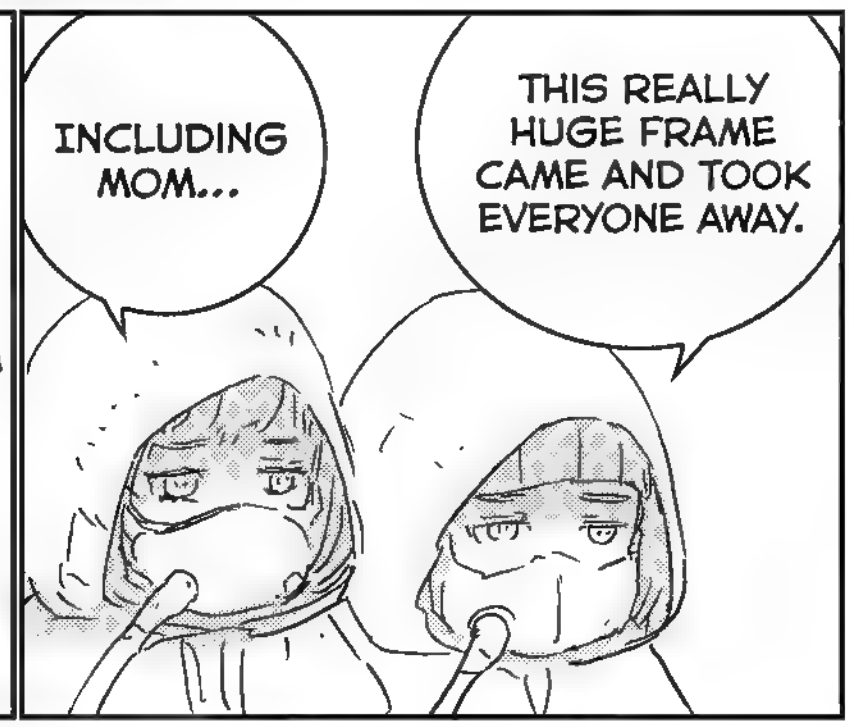

WAH!

BAM

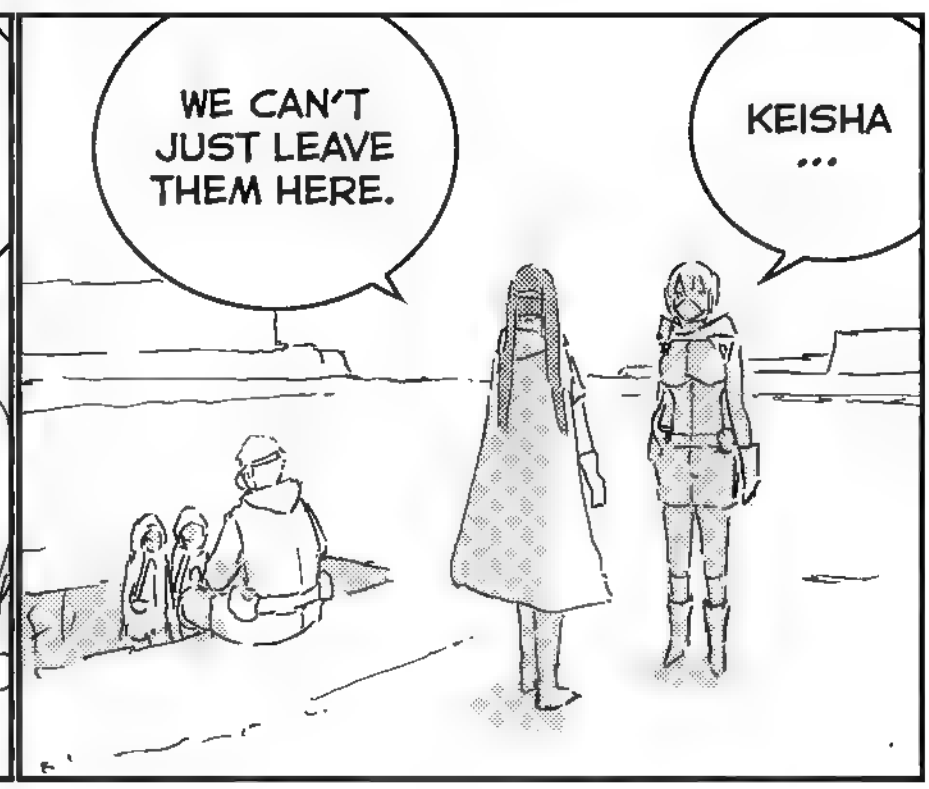

THERE ARE COATED ELECTRIFIED RODS SET UP. I CAN'T SEE INSIDE.

AND YOU TWO JUST HAPPENED TO BE WEARING MASKS.
SO EVERYONE GOT FRAME DISEASE, HUH?


...

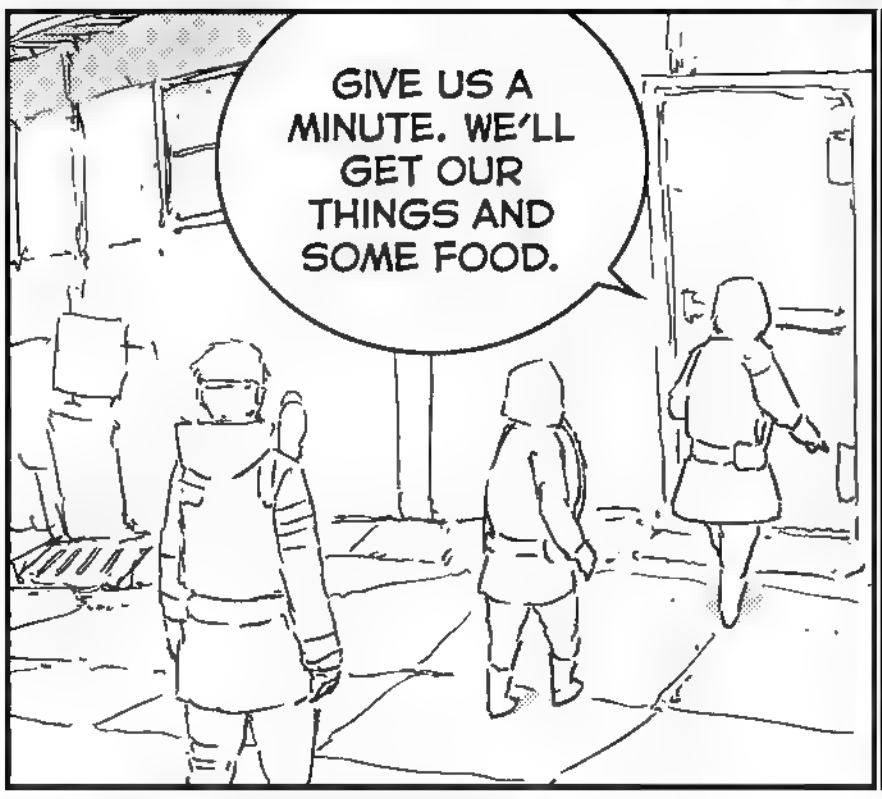

INCLUDING MOM...
THIS REALLY HUGE FRAME CAME AND TOOK EVERYONE AWAY.

THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE, YOU KNOW?
MAYBE SO, BUT DO YOU PLAN TO RESCUE EVERY PERSON WE FIND?


WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM HERE.
KEISHA ...

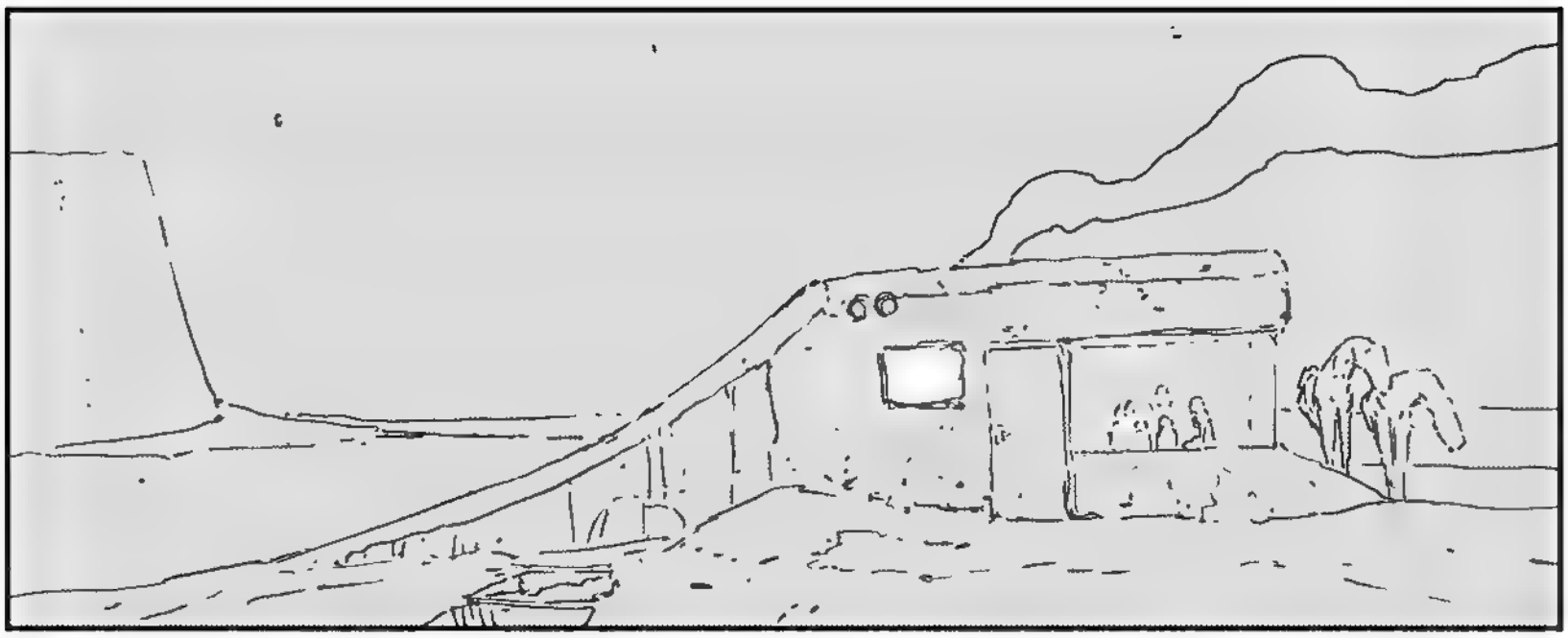
OUR AUNT LIVES THERE.
YOU MEAN KREDOA.

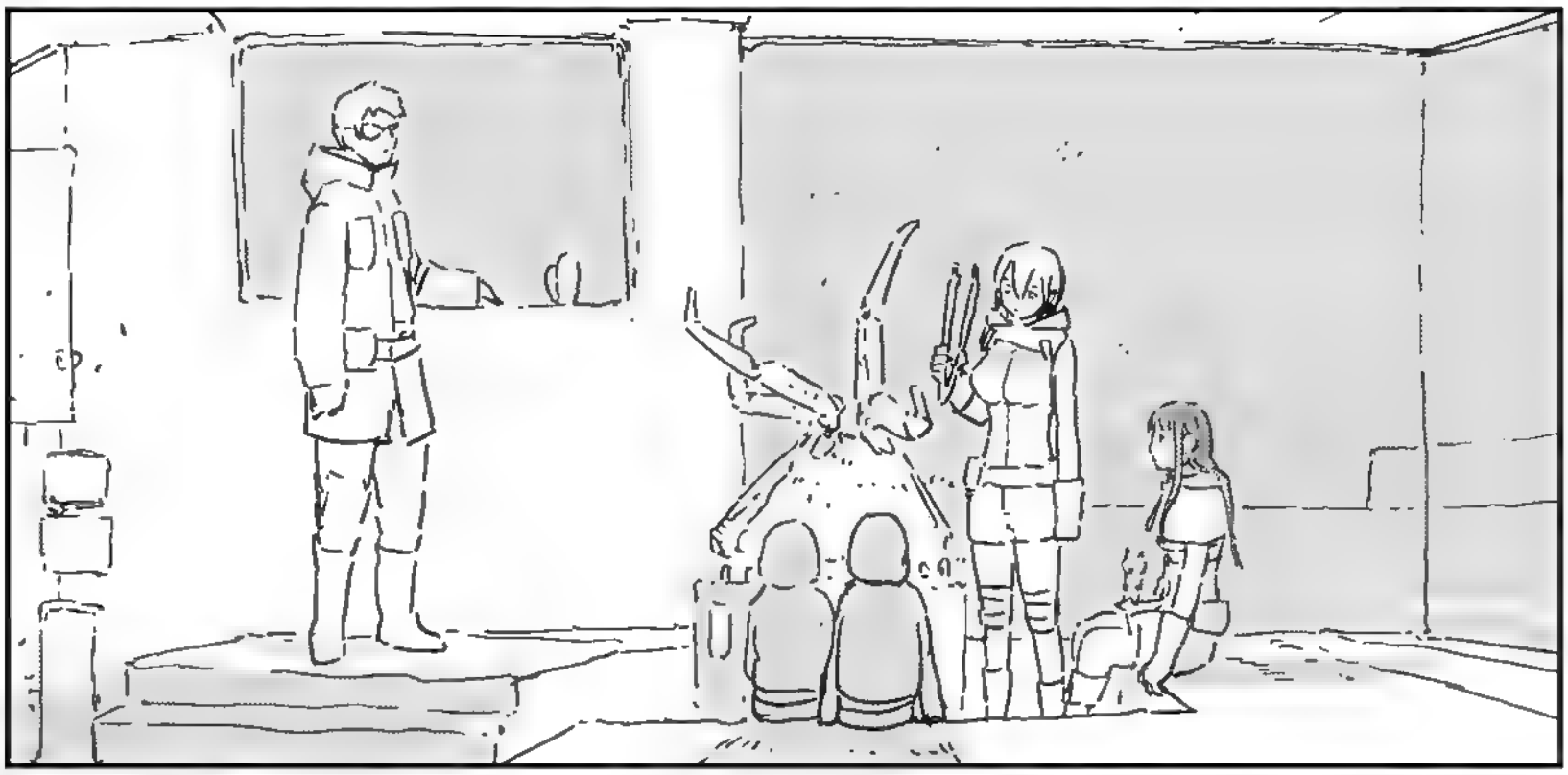
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US?
WE'RE HEADING TO A BIG CITY IN THE SOUTH.


GIVE US A MINUTE. WE'LL GET OUR THINGS AND SOME FOOD.

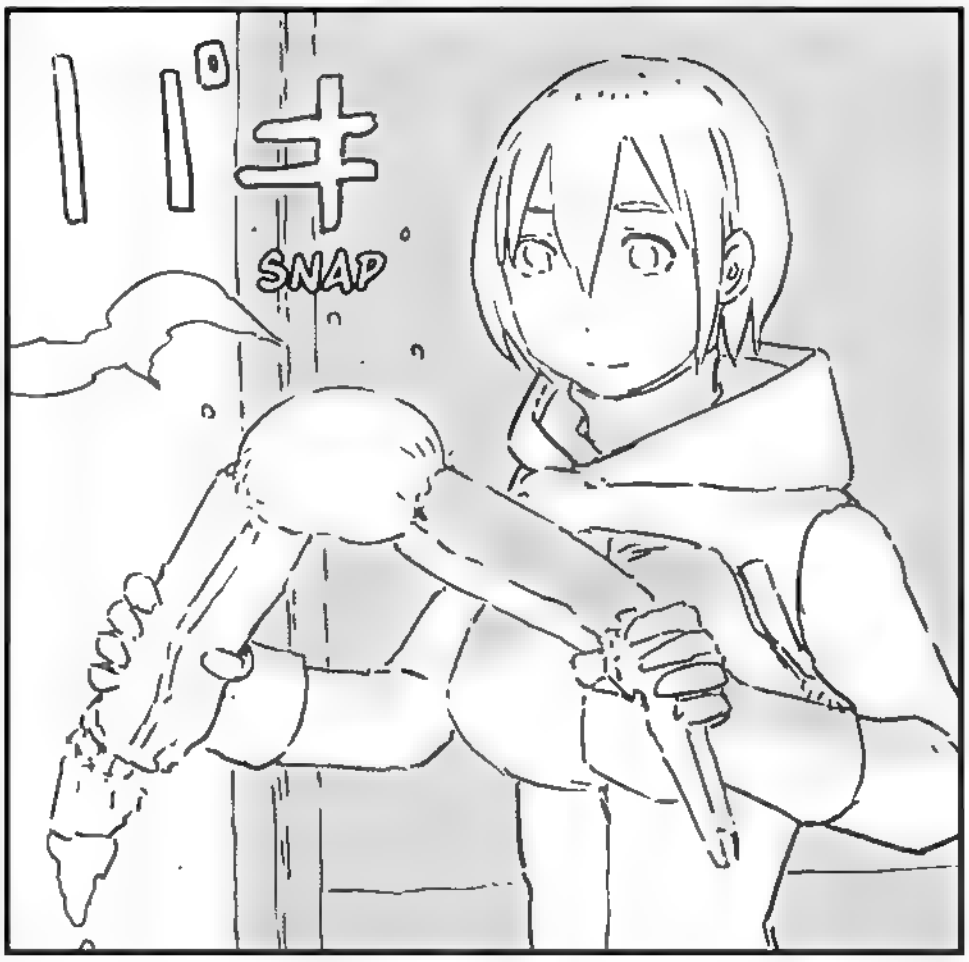
NEVER MIND THE FOOD, IT'LL BE CONTAMINATED.

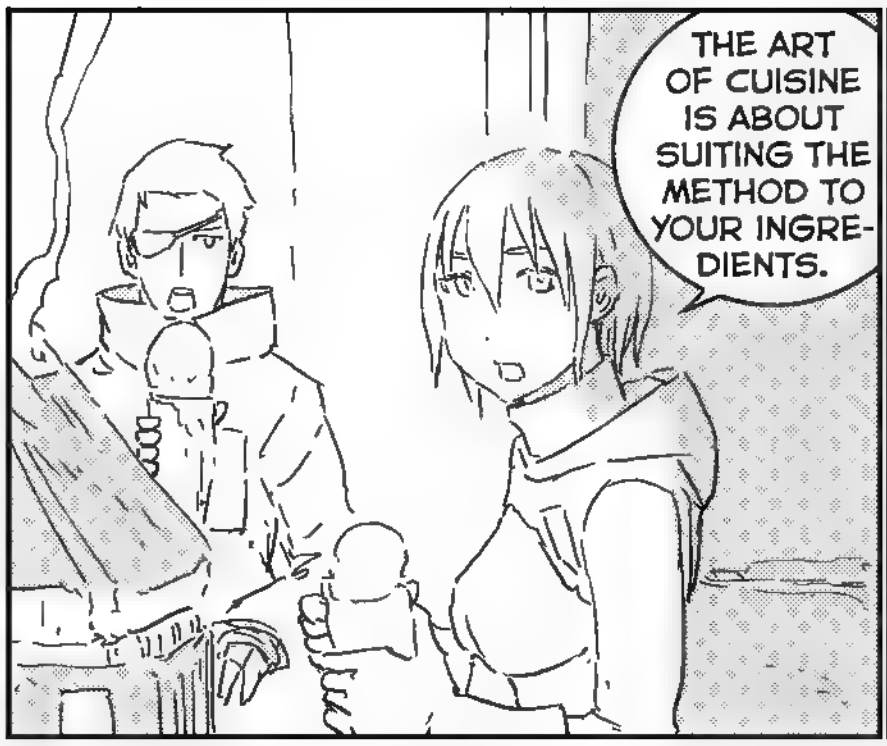
QUIET! THERE'S A RUST-EATER HERE.
QUIT COMPLAINING ABOUT EVERY LITTLE THING! I DON'T LIKE THIS EITHER!
HOW COME I HAVE TO RIDE DOUBLE WITH YOU, KEISHA?
THAT WAS AMAZING, BIG BROTHER ETHEROW!
KREAK キィ キィ
BLAM

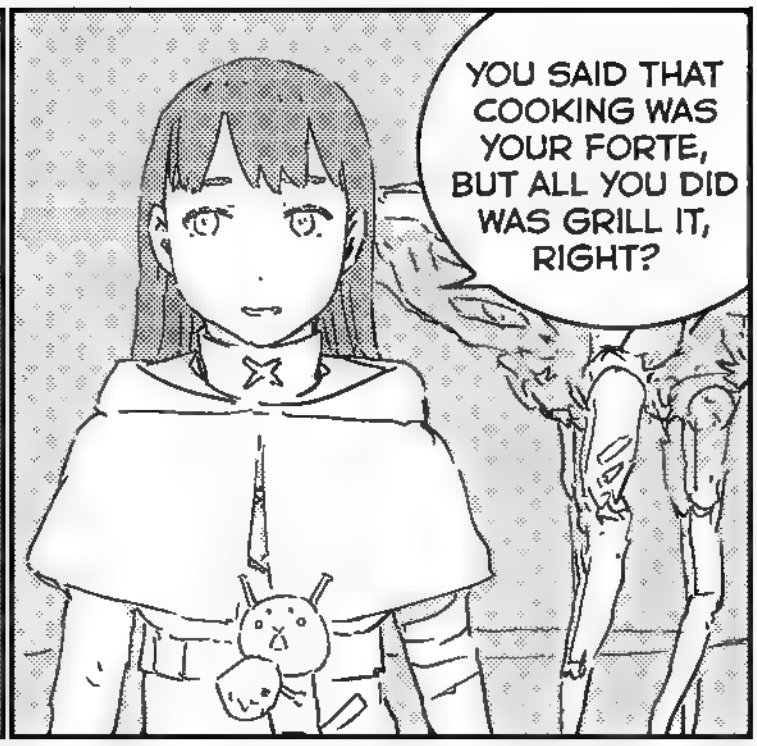


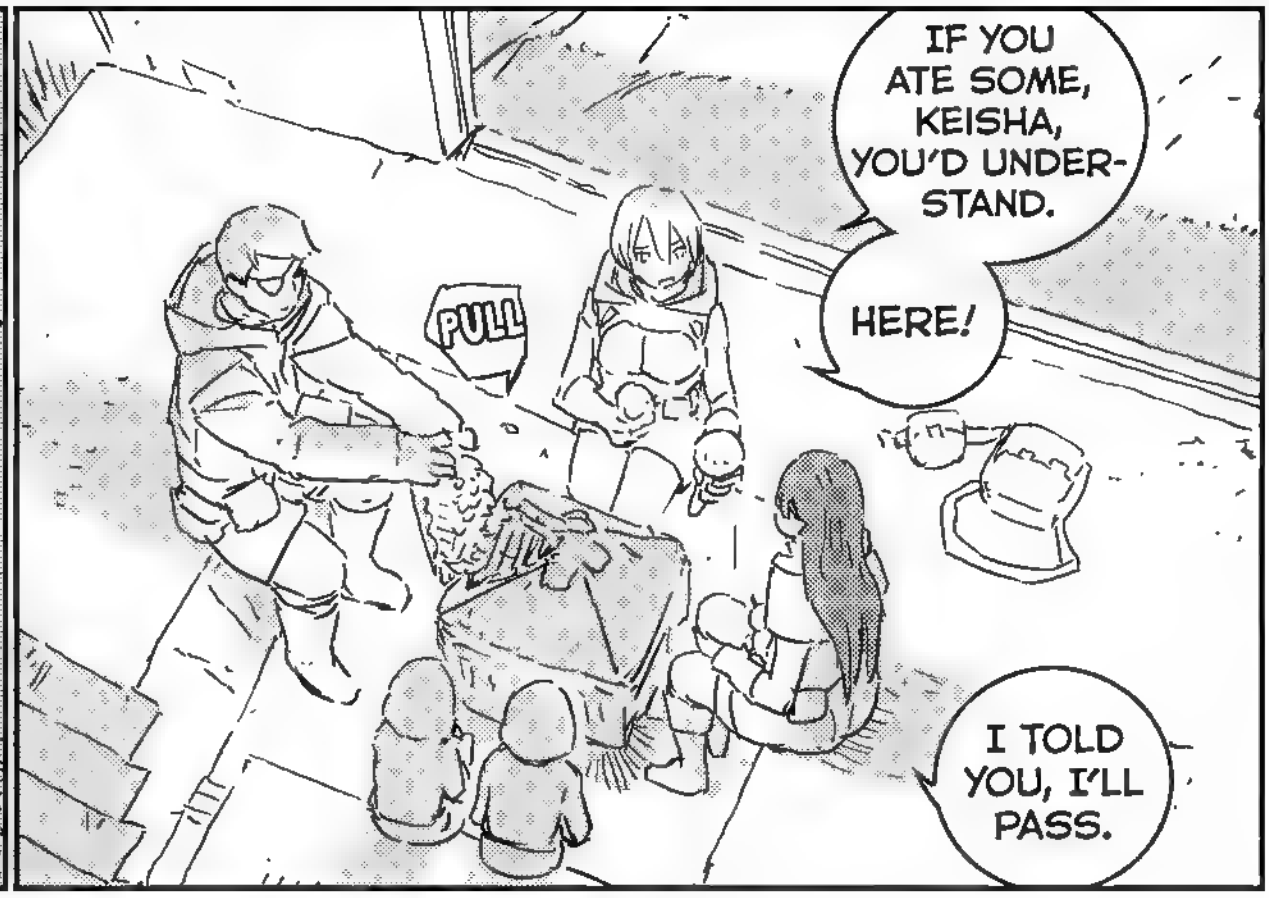


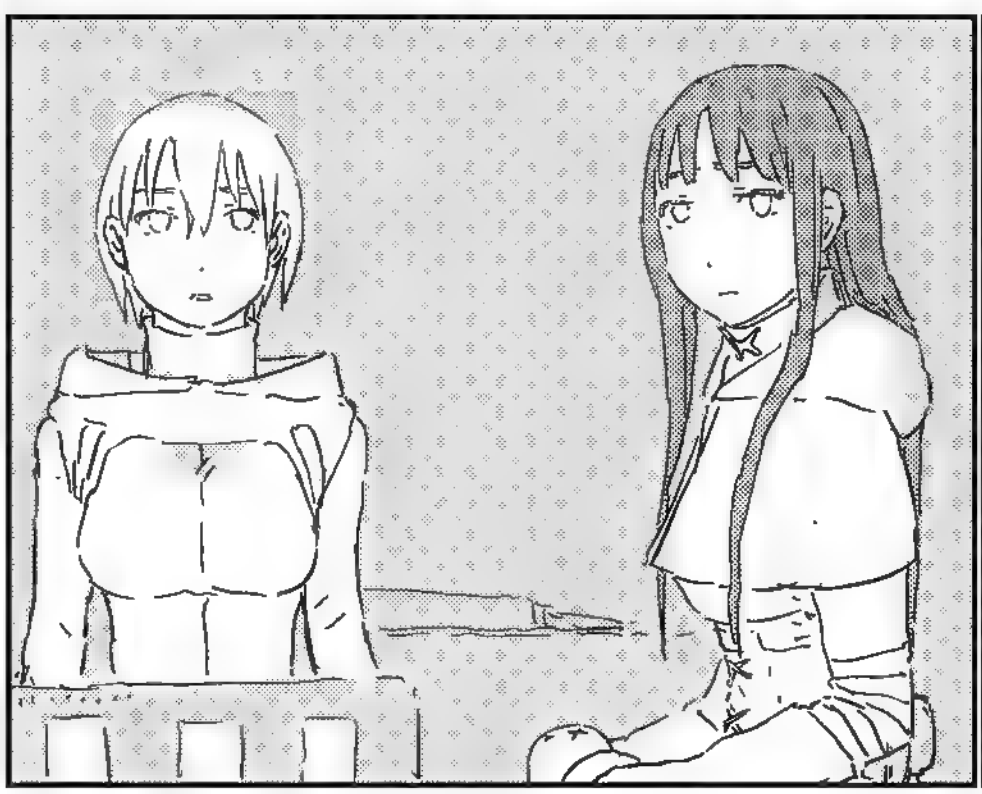
HERE YOU GO!
THANK YOU.

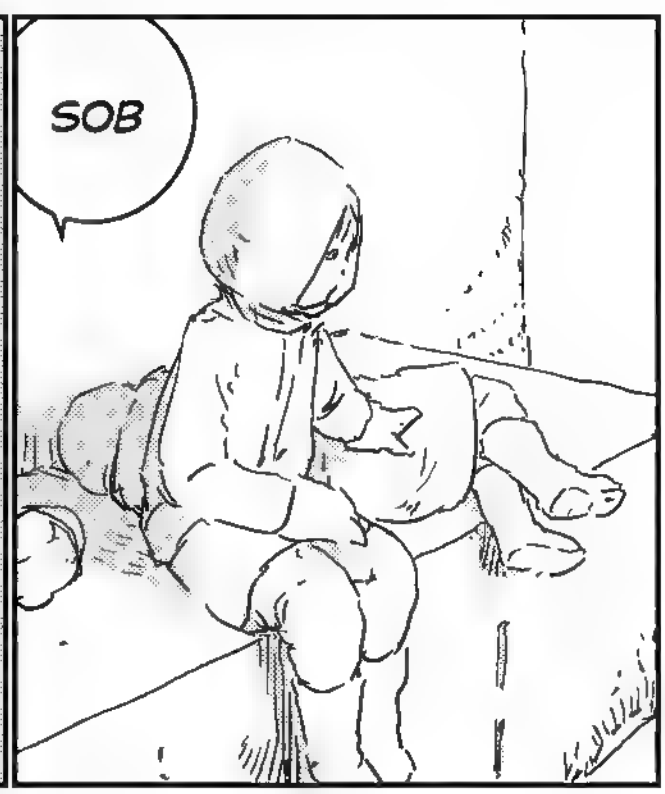

SNAP


THE ART OF CUISINE IS ABOUT SUITING THE METHOD TO YOUR INGREDIENTS.


YOU SAID THAT COOKING WAS YOUR FORTE, BUT ALL YOU DID WAS GRILL IT, RIGHT?

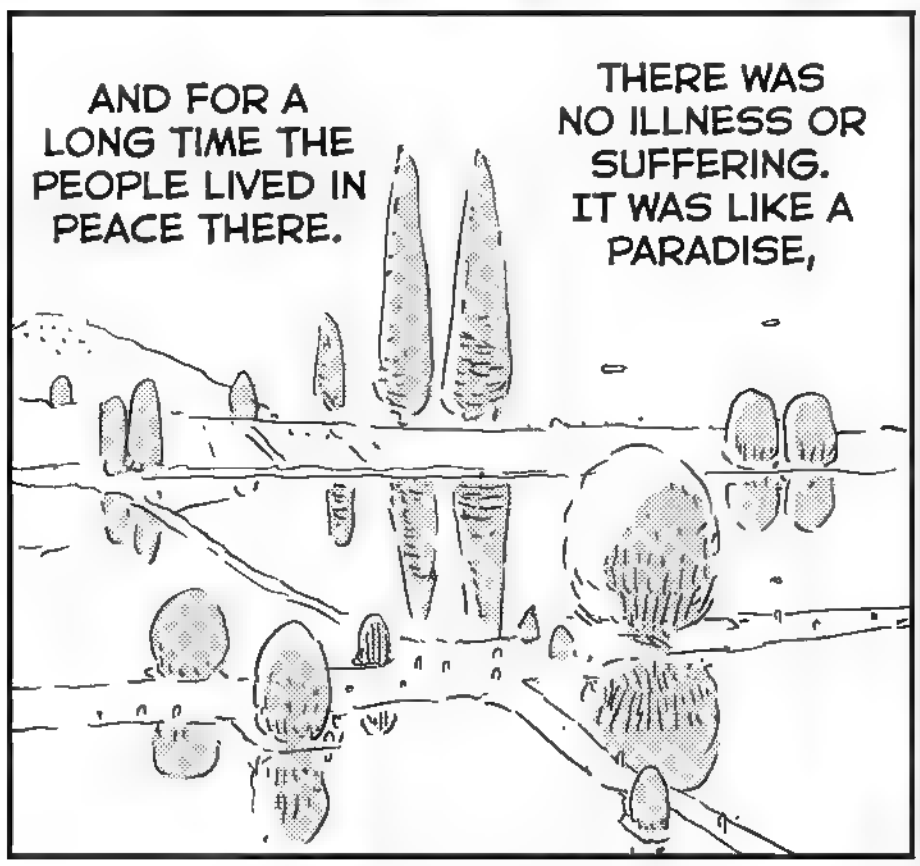

IF YOU ATE SOME, KEISHA, YOU'D UNDERSTAND.
PULL
HERE!
I TOLD YOU, I'LL PASS.



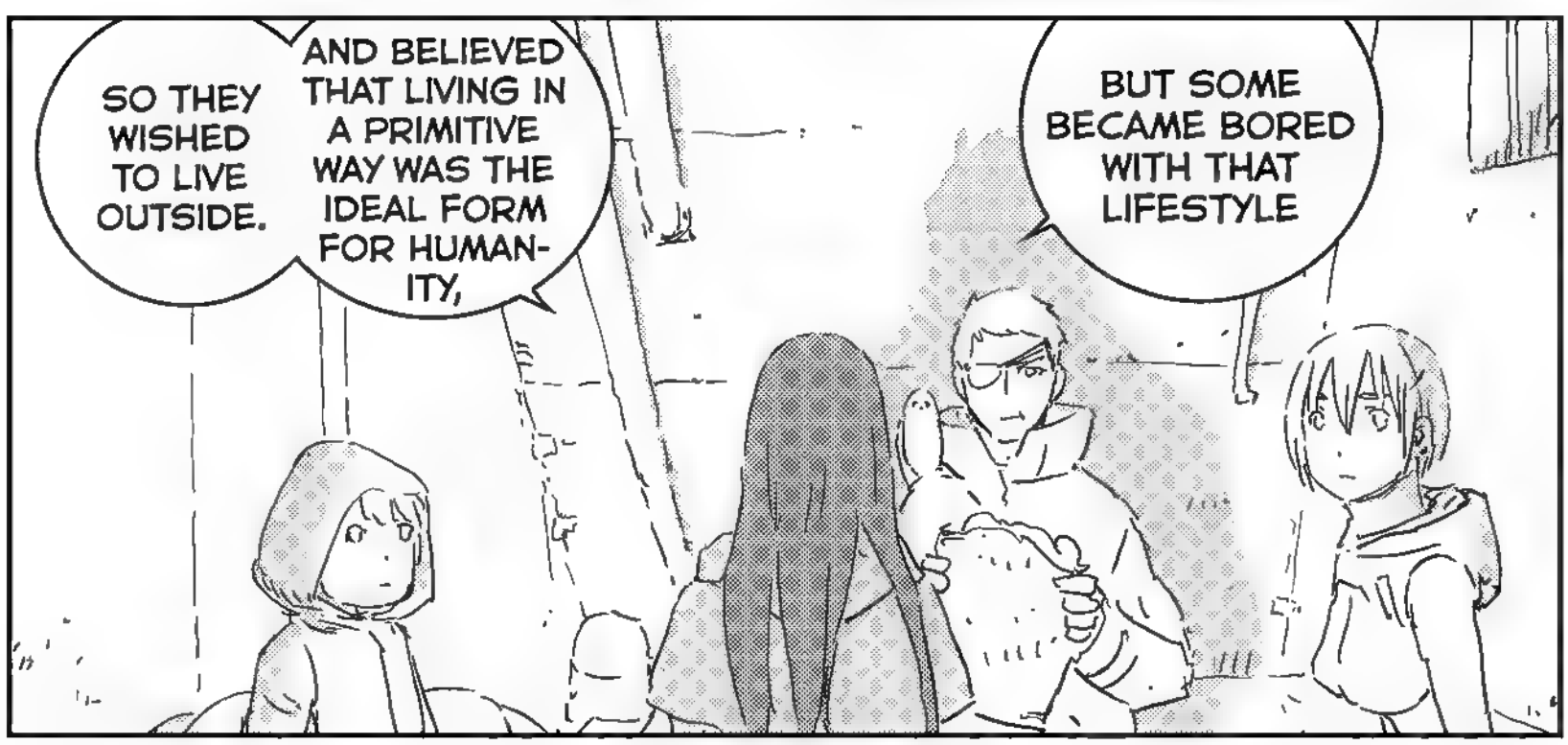

SOB

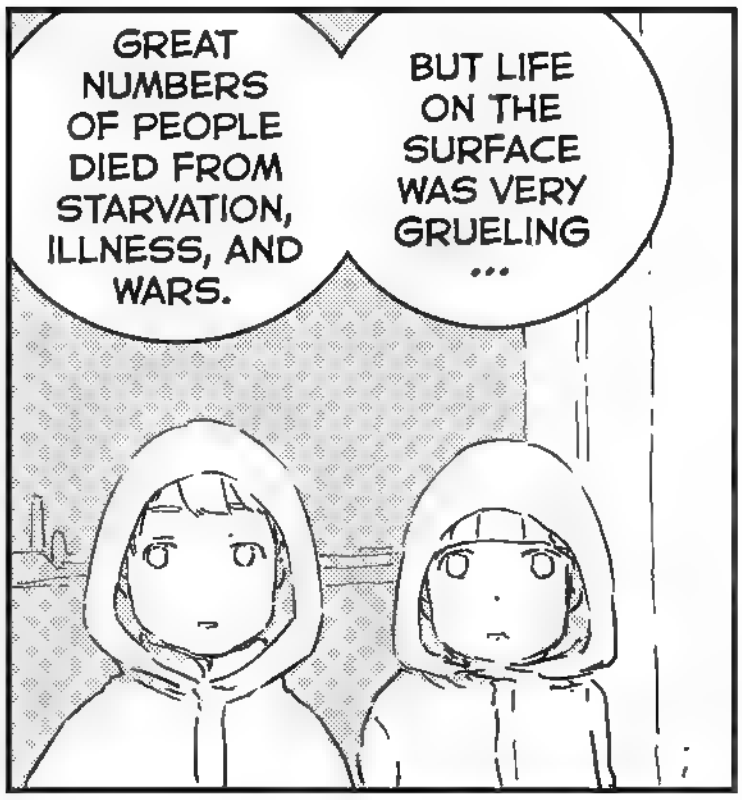
A LONG TIME AGO...

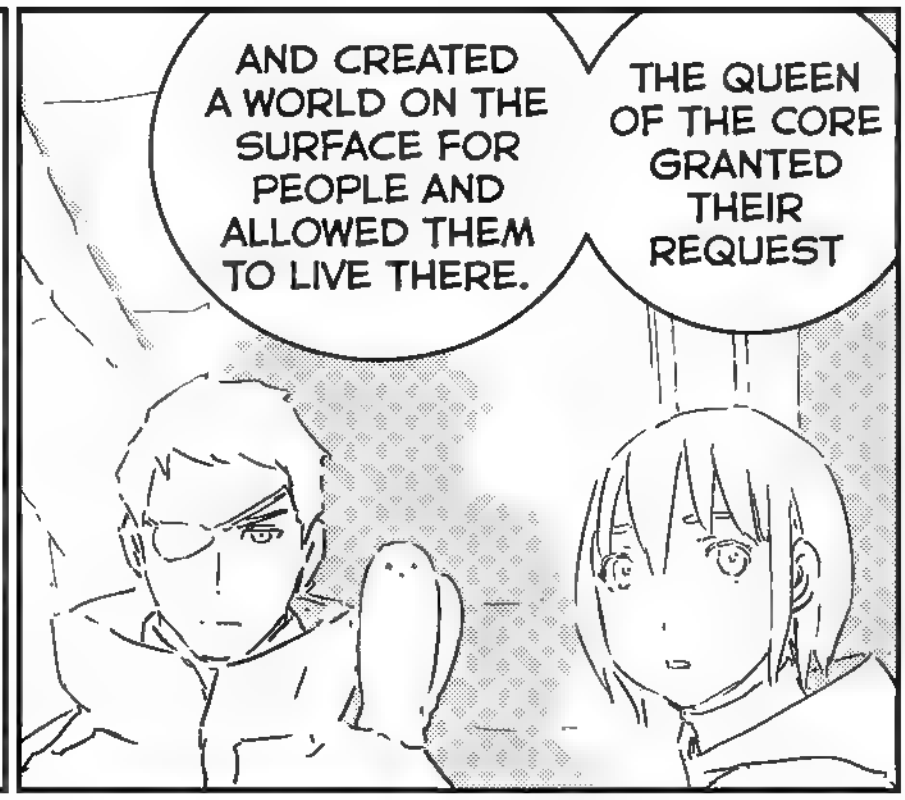
KAJIWAN IS OUT OF CONTROL.
SPREADING THE CONTAMINANT INDISCRIMINATELY IS GOING TOO FAR!


AND FOR A LONG TIME THE PEOPLE LIVED IN PEACE THERE.
THERE WAS NO ILLNESS OR SUFFERING. IT WAS LIKE A PARADISE,

ALL PEOPLE LIVED IN THE CORE.


SO THEY WISHED TO LIVE OUTSIDE.
AND BELIEVED THAT LIVING IN A PRIMITIVE WAY WAS THE IDEAL FORM FOR HUMANITY,
BUT SOME BECAME BORED WITH THAT LIFESTYLE


GREAT NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DIED FROM STARVATION, ILLNESS, AND WARS.
BUT LIFE ON THE SURFACE WAS VERY GRUELING ...


AND CREATED A WORLD ON THE SURFACE FOR PEOPLE AND ALLOWED THEM TO LIVE THERE.
THE QUEEN OF THE CORE GRANTED THEIR REQUEST

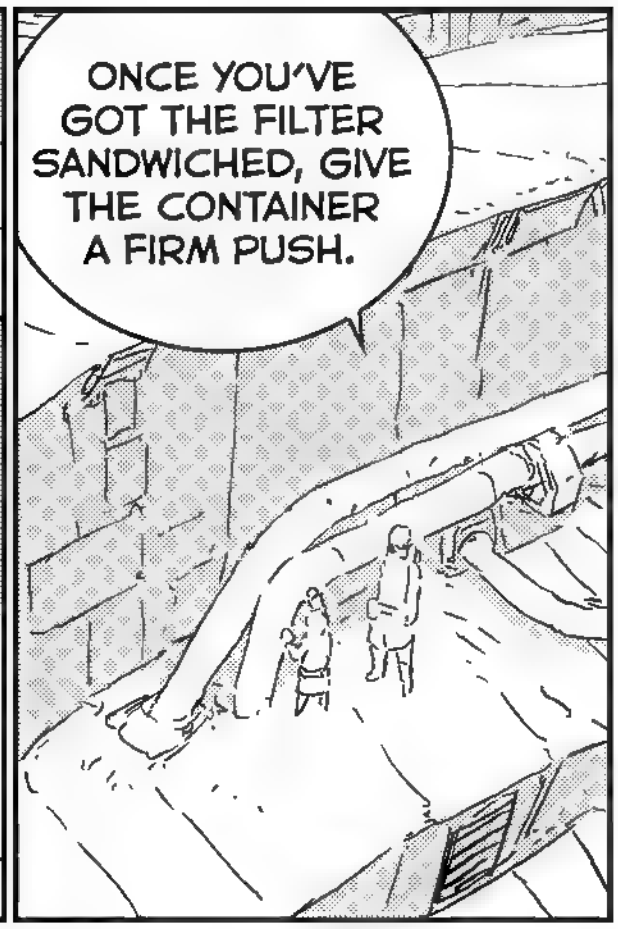
THAT'S AN OLD FOLKTALE!

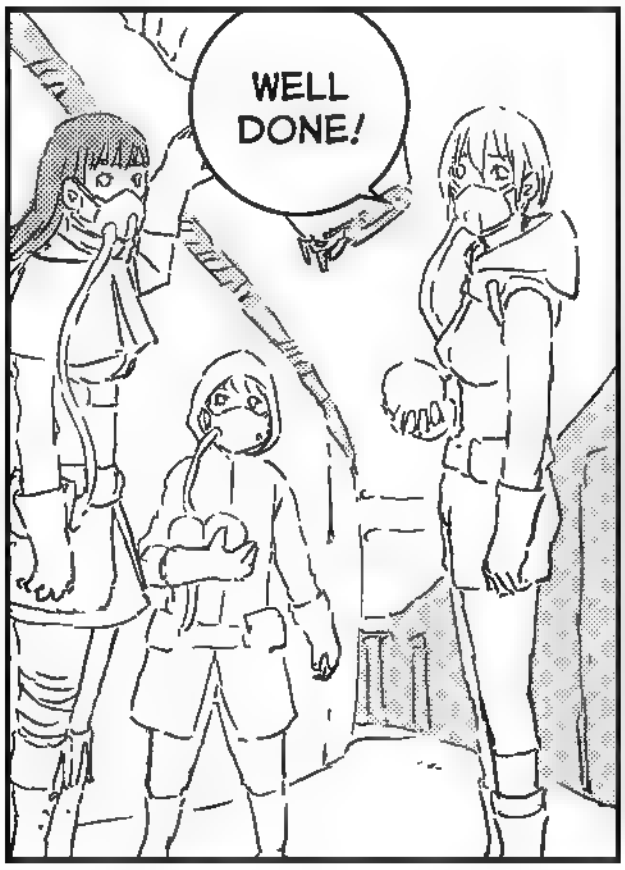
THIS WAS THE FRAME DISEASE.
THE QUEEN COULDN'T MERELY WATCH AND DO NOTHING, SO SHE GAVE THEM A WAY TO RETURN TO THE CORE.

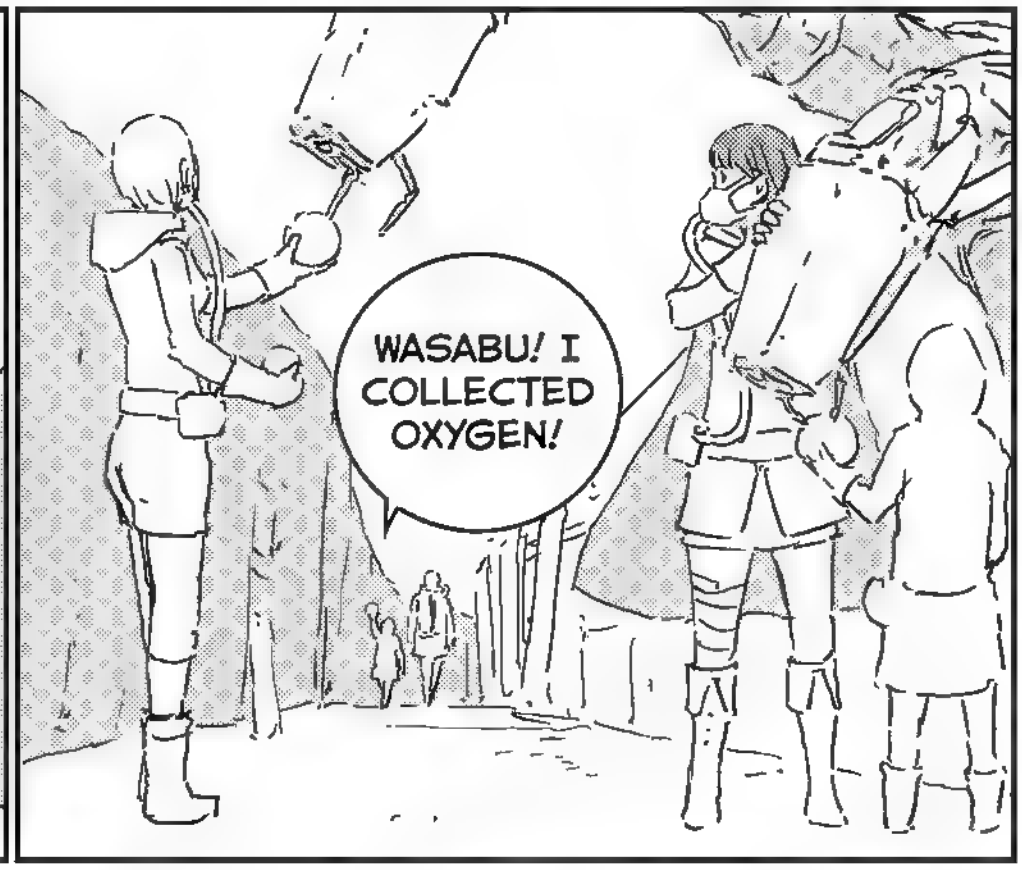
AND I DON'T GET THE SENSE THAT HE THINKS ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

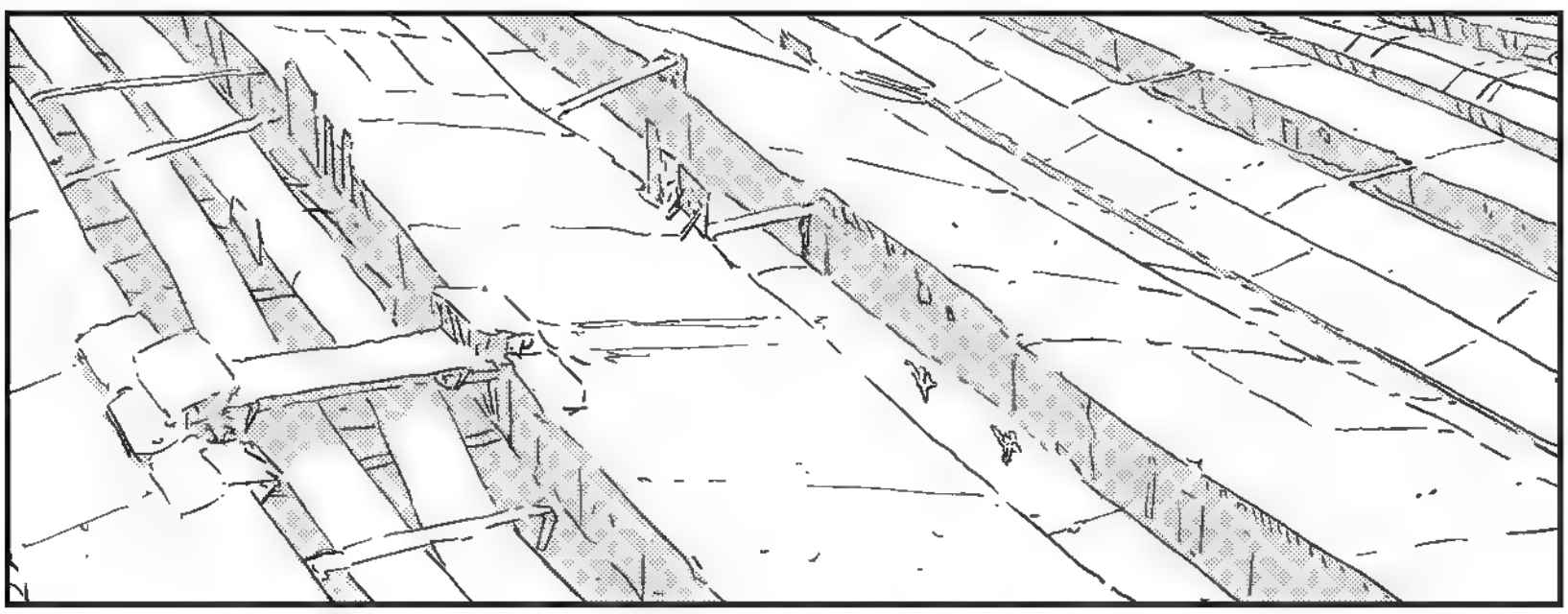
ARE YOU SAYING THAT KAJIWAN SERIOUSLY BELIEVES THAT?
NOBODY WANTS TO BECOME INFECTED!

GOOD. THAT'S IT.

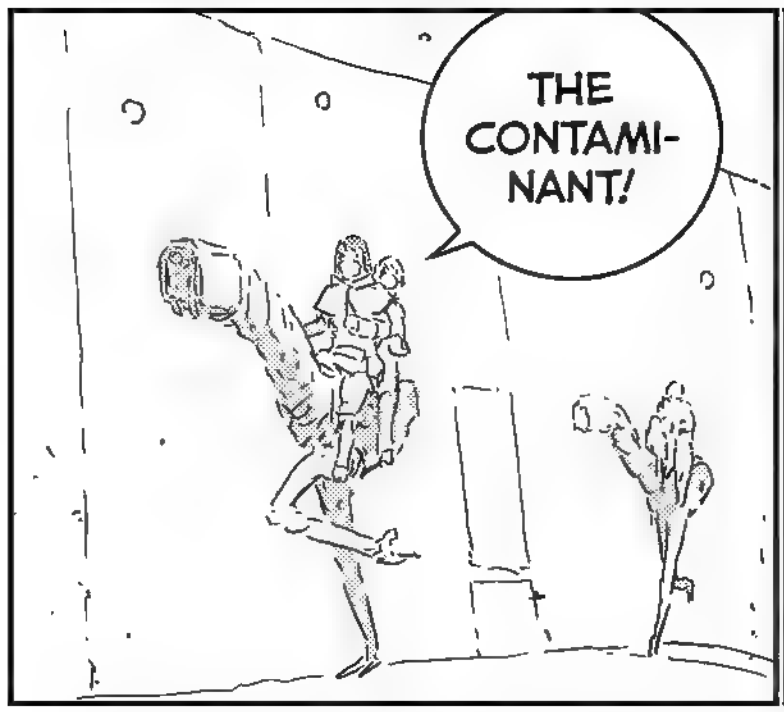

ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE FILTER SANDWICHED, GIVE THE CONTAINER A FIRM PUSH.

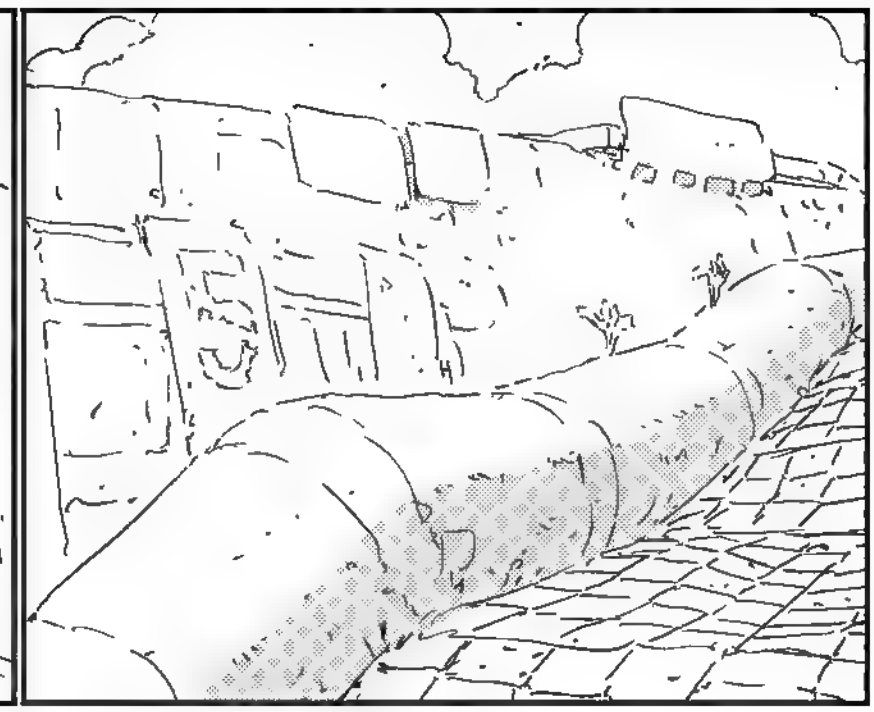

WELL DONE!


WASABU! I COLLECTED OXYGEN!



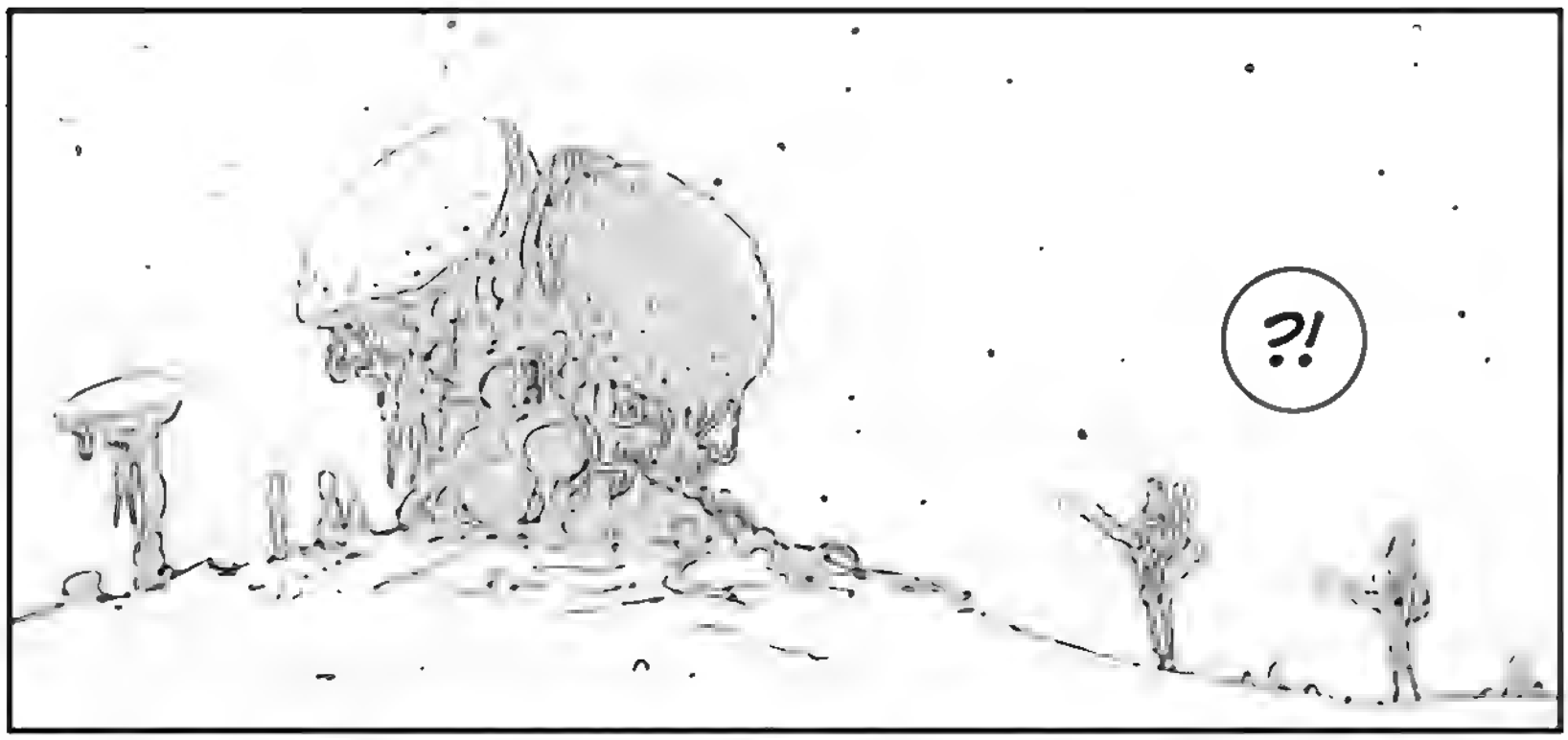
PWIP
WE'RE ALMOST AT KREDOA!

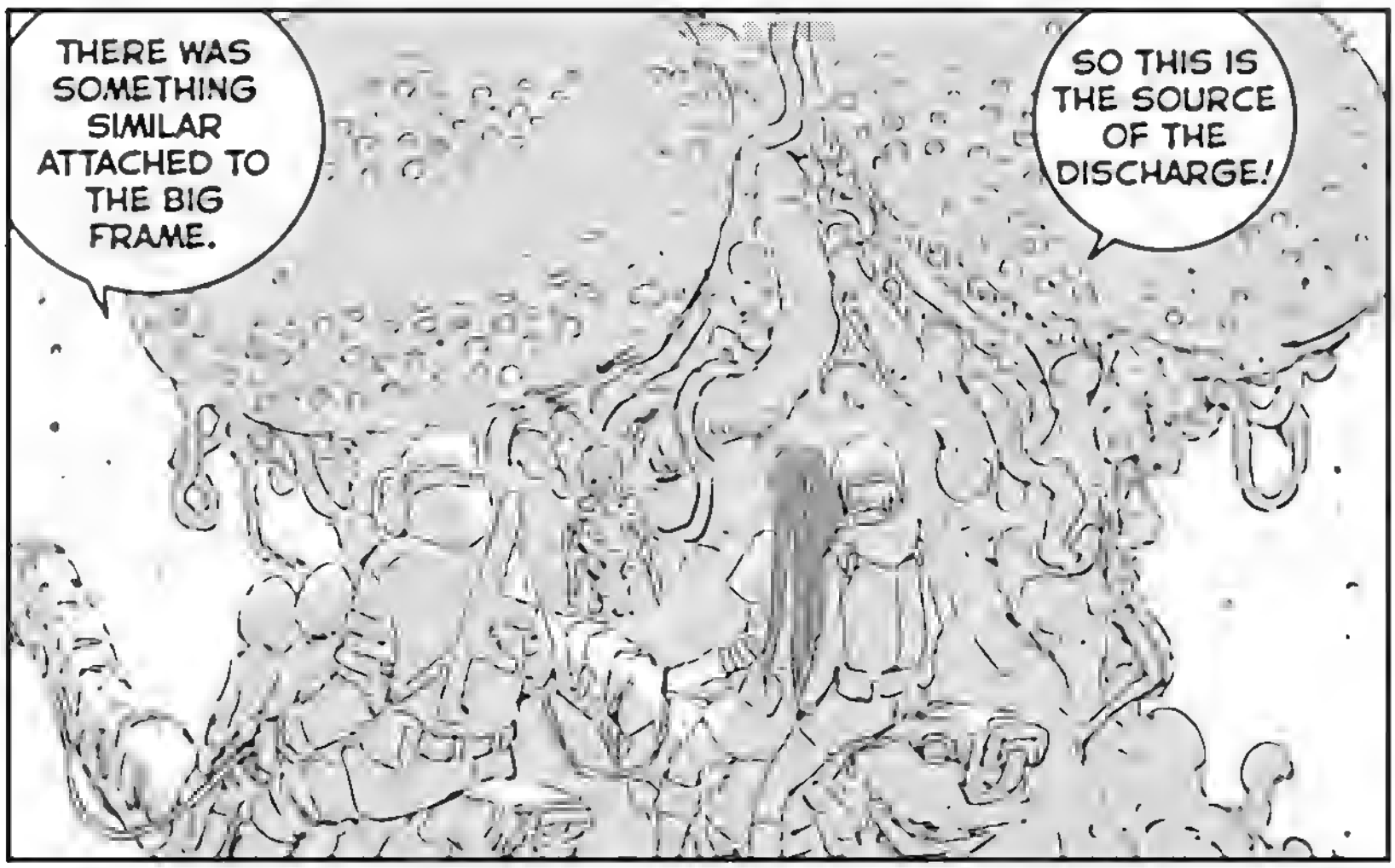

THE CONTAMI-NANT!

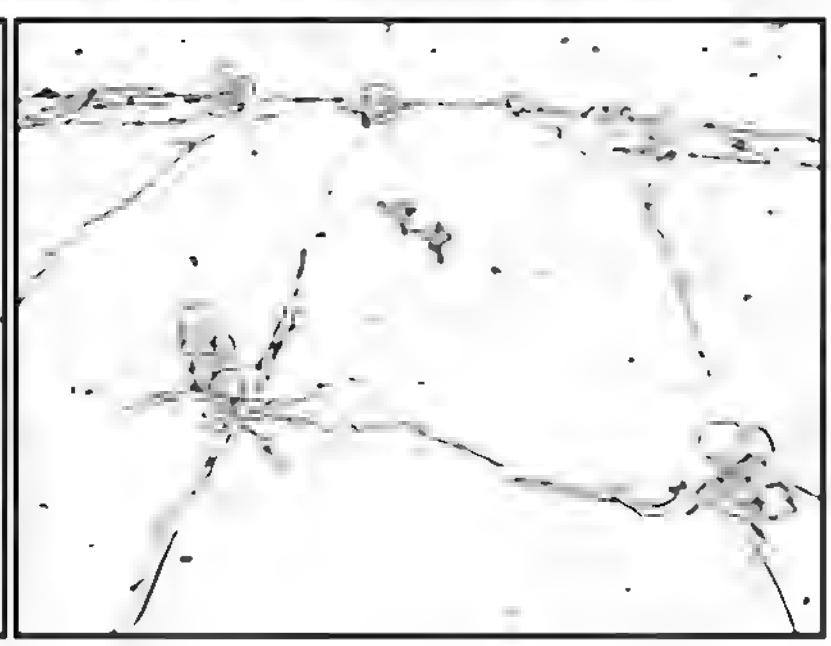


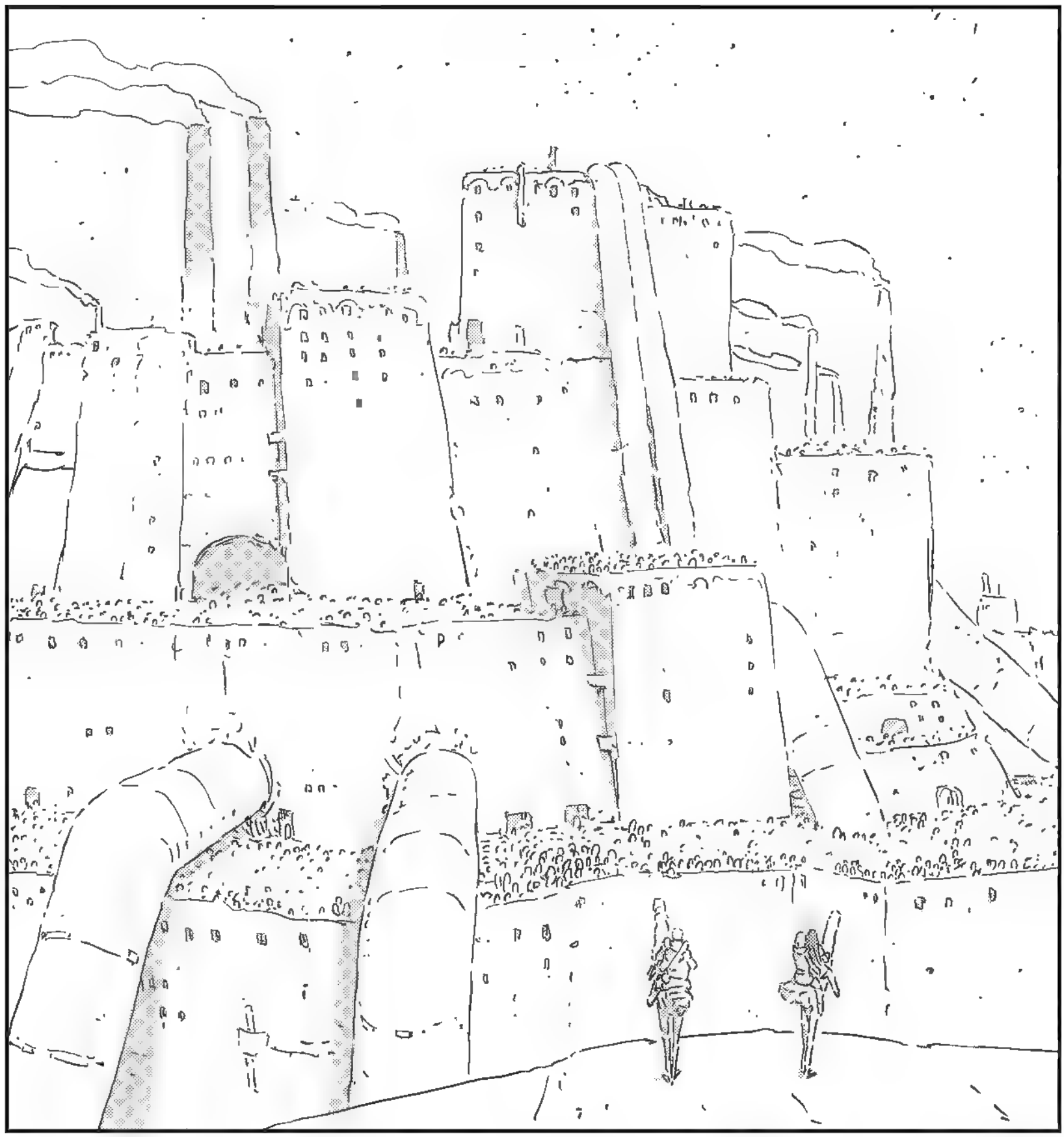
IT'S GETTING THICKER AND THICKER...

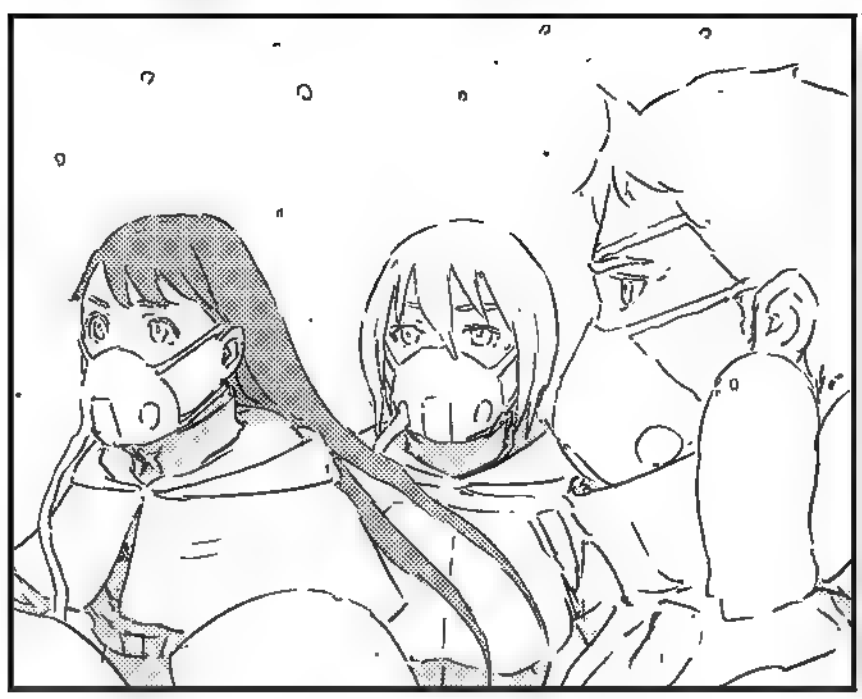
YOU'LL BE OKAY WITH YOUR MASKS ON.
I'M SCARED!

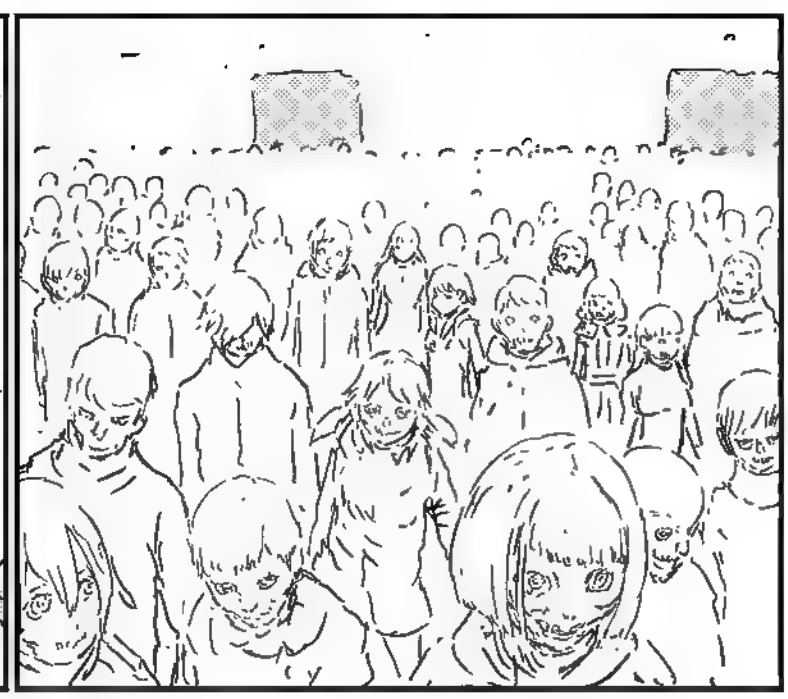

?!

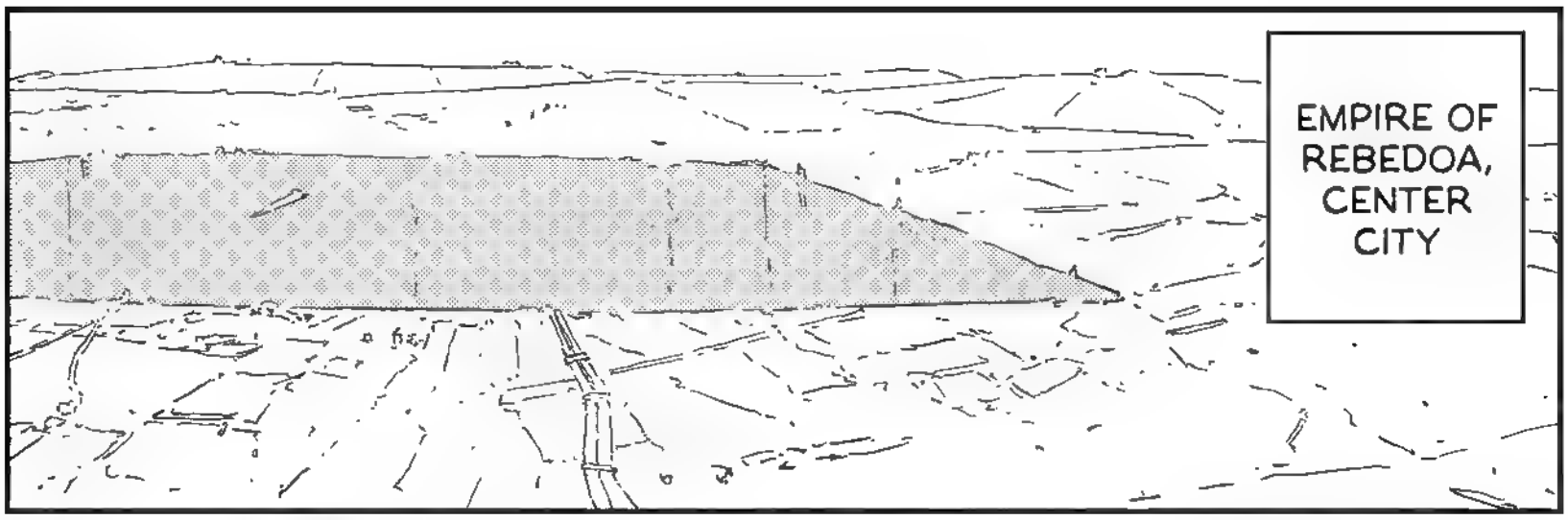

THERE WAS SOMETHING SIMILAR ATTACHED TO THE BIG FRAME.
SO THIS IS THE SOURCE OF THE DISCHARGE!

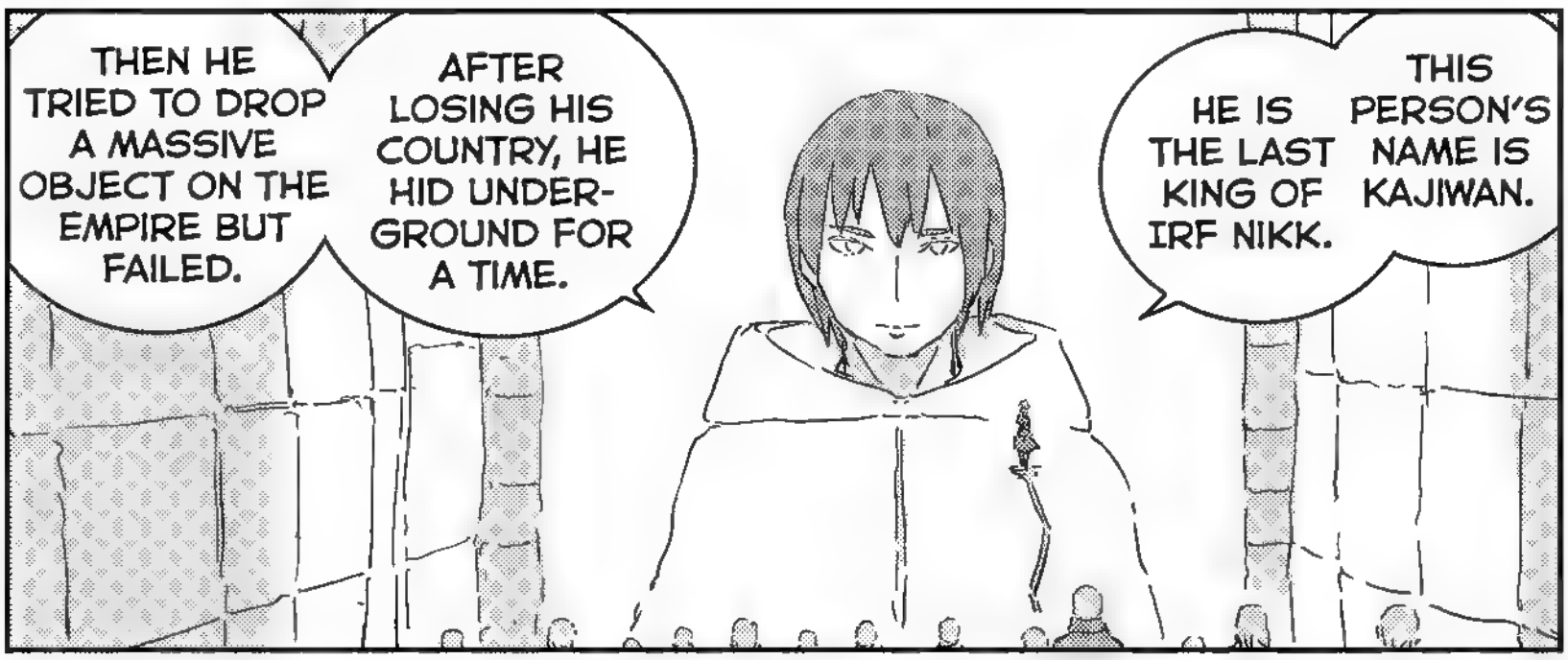


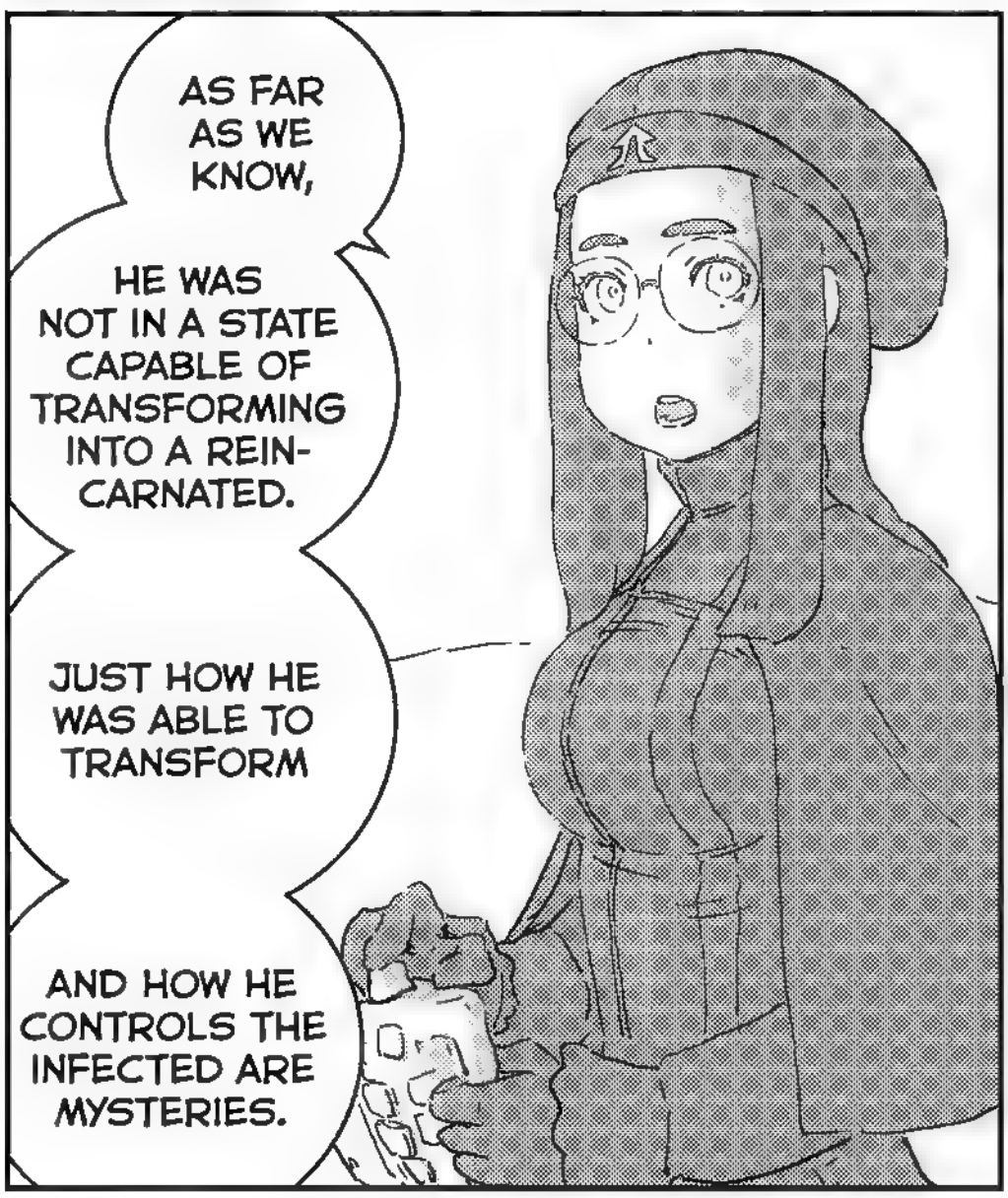


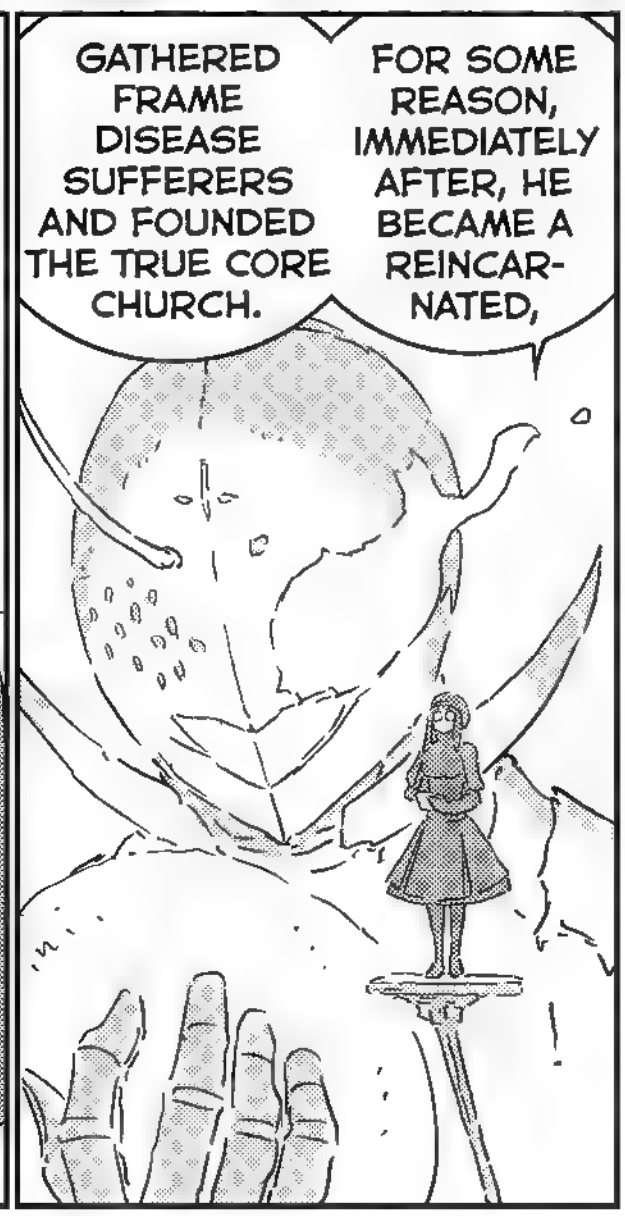


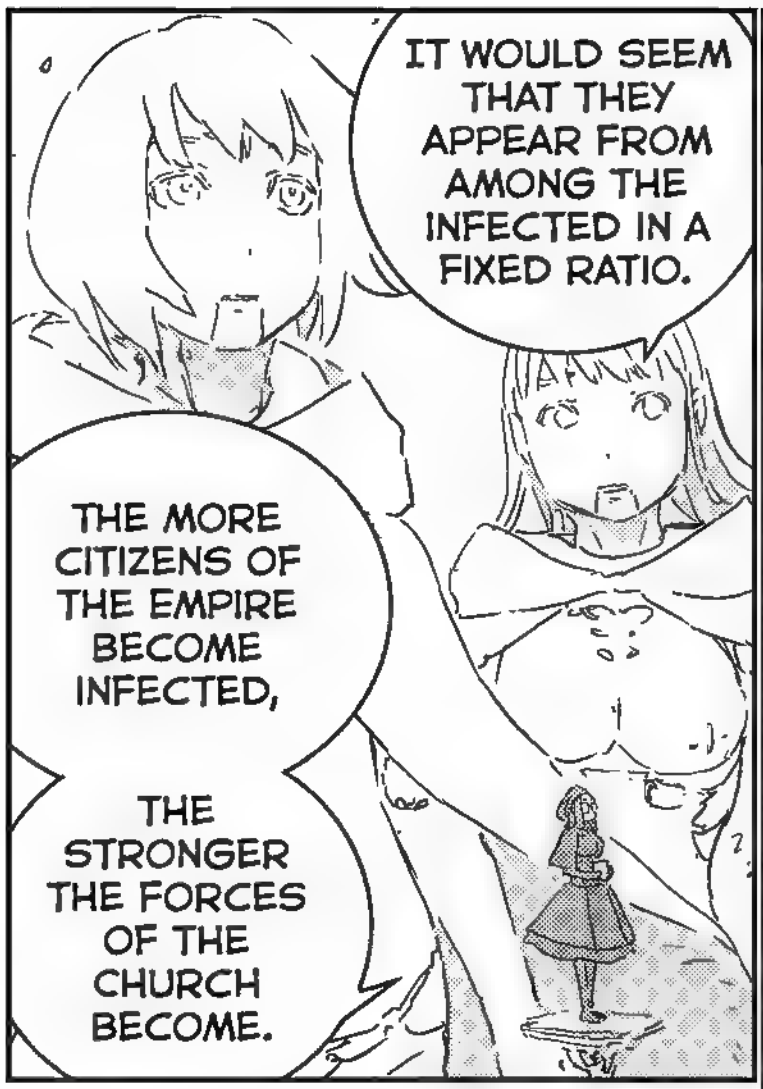


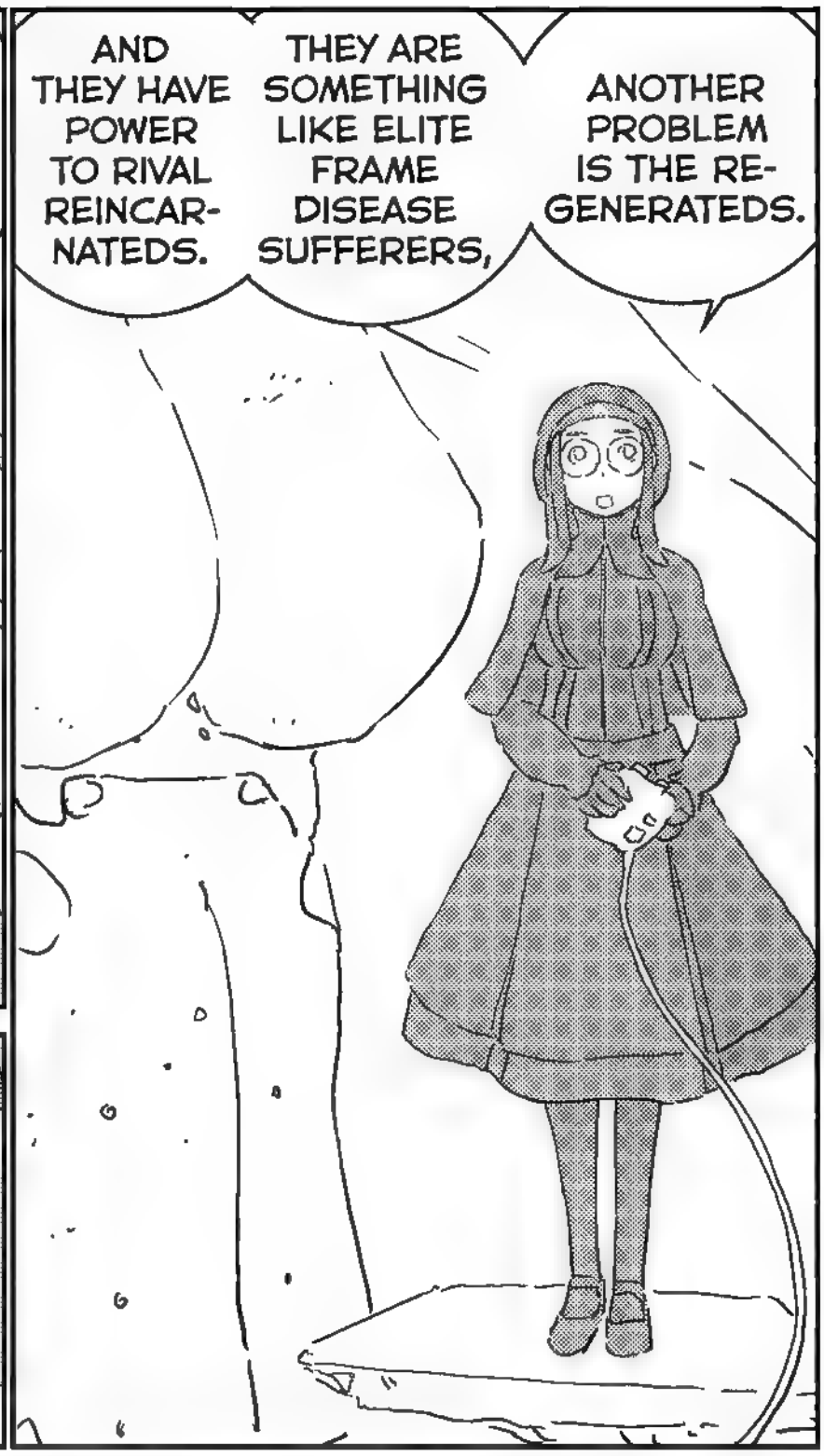

EMPIRE OF REBEDOA, CENTER CITY

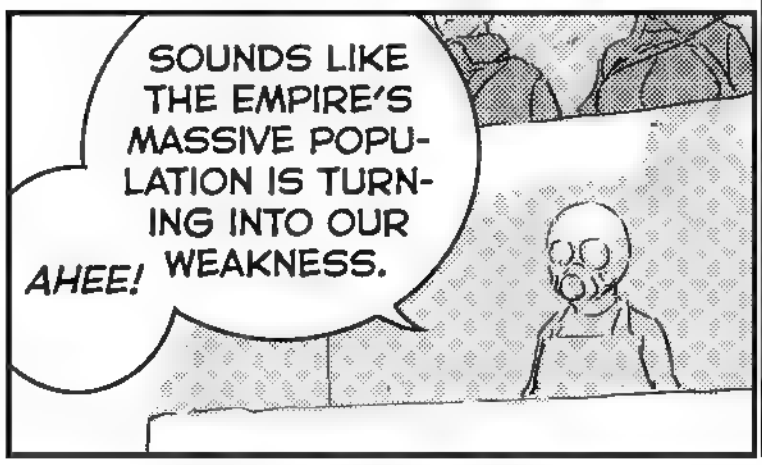

THEN HE TRIED TO DROP A MASSIVE OBJECT ON THE EMPIRE BUT FAILED.
AFTER LOSING HIS COUNTRY, HE HID UNDER-GROUND FOR A TIME.
HE IS THE LAST KING OF IRF NIKK.
THIS PERSON'S NAME IS KAJIWAN.

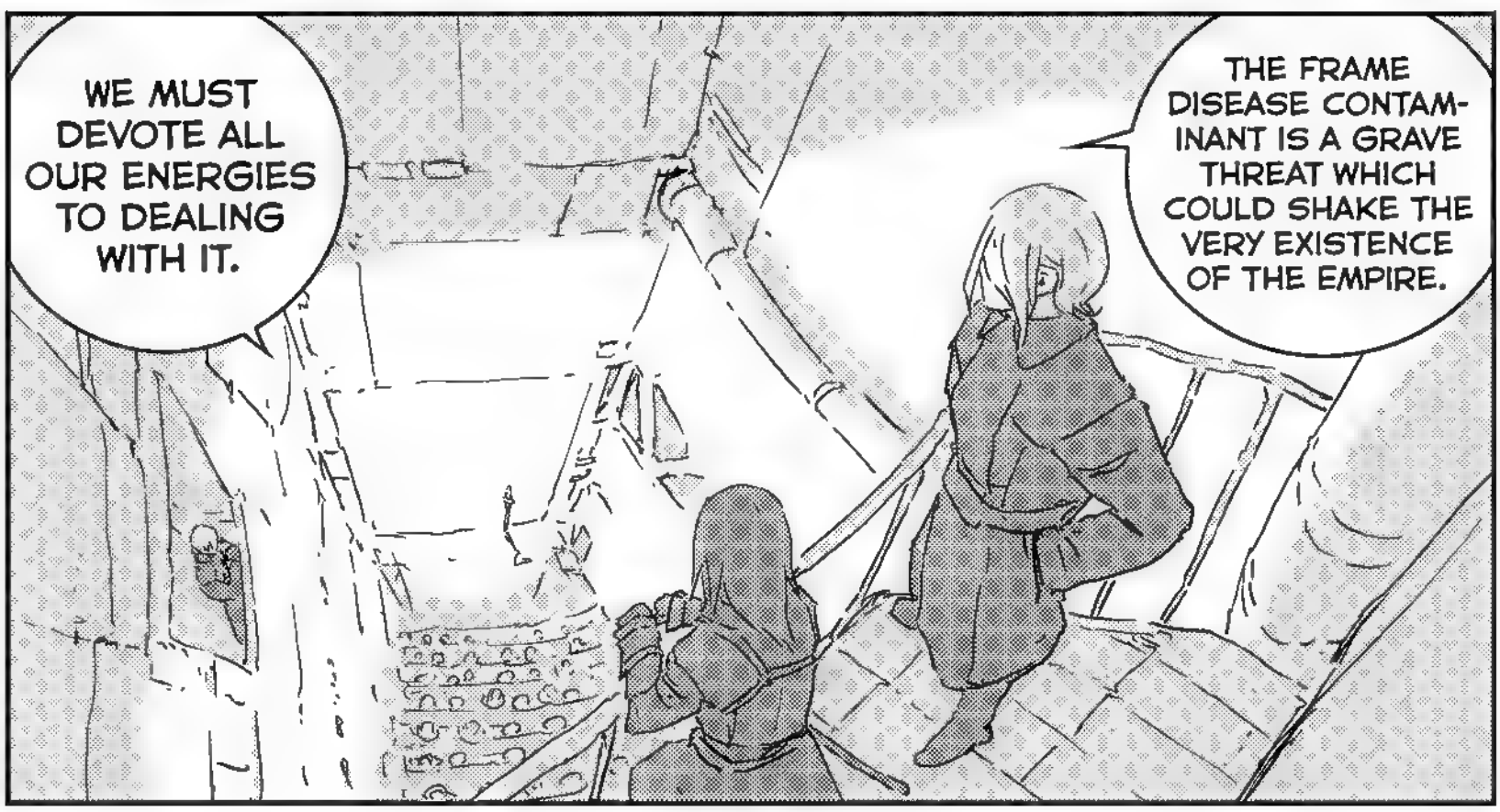

AS FAR AS WE KNOW,
HE WAS NOT IN A STATE CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING INTO A REIN-CARNATED.
JUST HOW HE WAS ABLE TO TRANSFORM
AND HOW HE CONTROLS THE INFECTED ARE MYSTERIES.

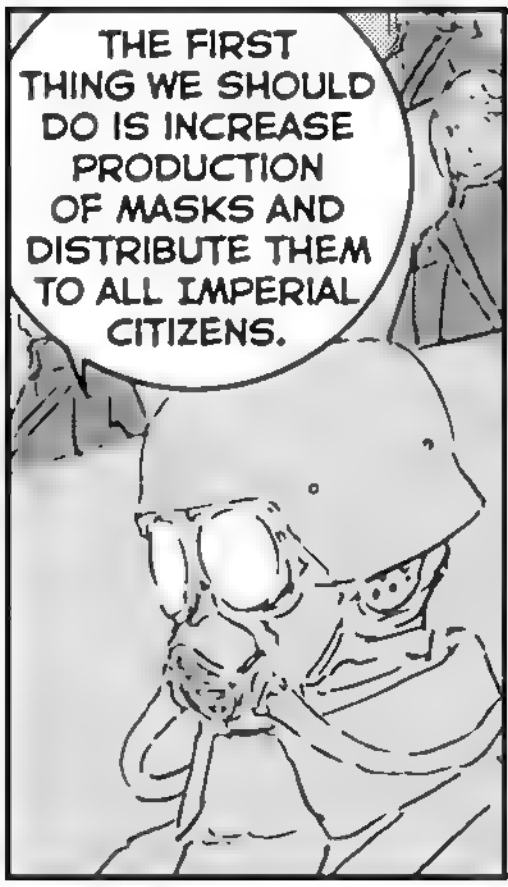

GATHERED FRAME DISEASE SUFFERERS AND FOUNDED THE TRUE CORE CHURCH.
FOR SOME REASON, IMMEDIATELY AFTER, HE BECAME A REINCAR-NATED,


IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY APPEAR FROM AMONG THE INFECTED IN A FIXED RATIO.
THE MORE CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE BECOME INFECTED,
THE STRONGER THE FORCES OF THE CHURCH BECOME.

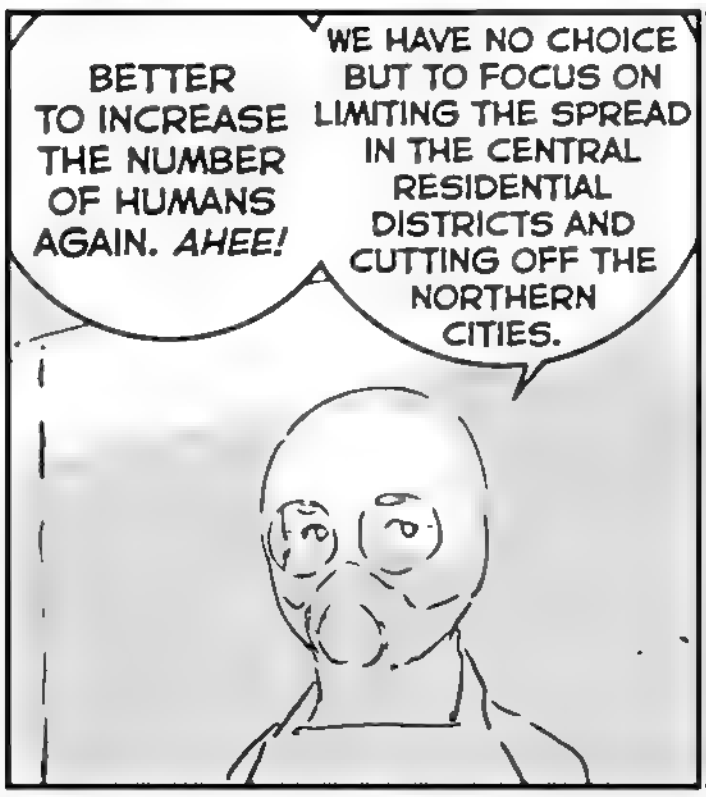

AND THEY HAVE POWER TO RIVAL REINCAR-NATEDS.
THEY ARE SOMETHING LIKE ELITE FRAME DISEASE SUFFERERS,
ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THE RE-GENERATEDS.

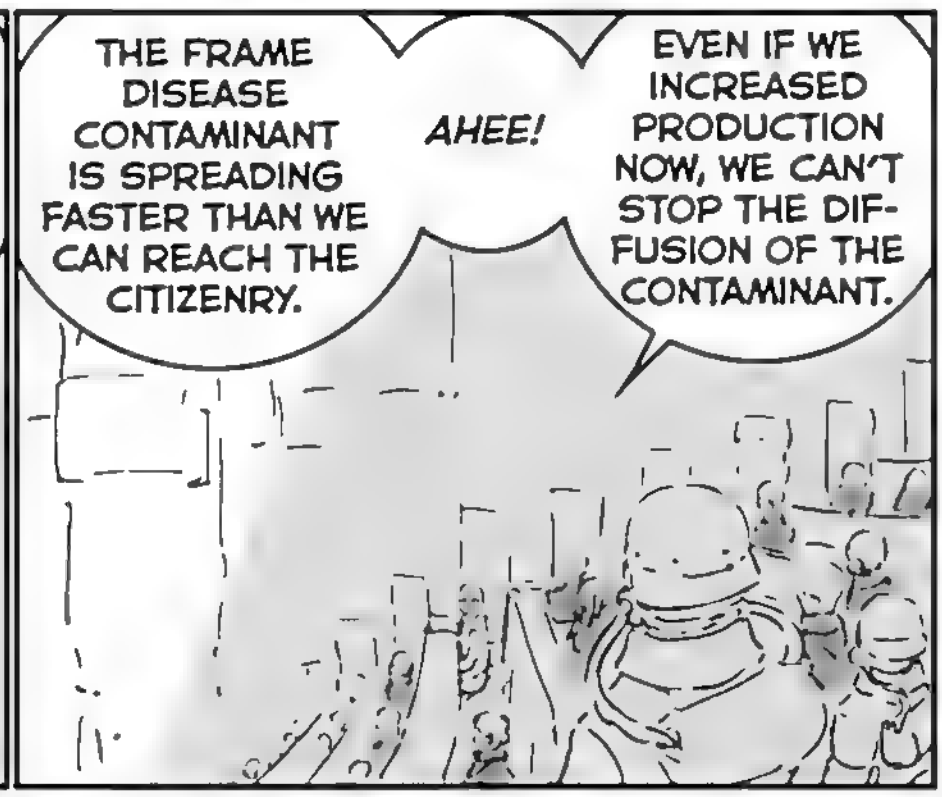

SOUNDS LIKE THE EMPIRE'S MASSIVE POPU-LATION IS TURN-ING INTO OUR WEAKNESS.
AHEE!

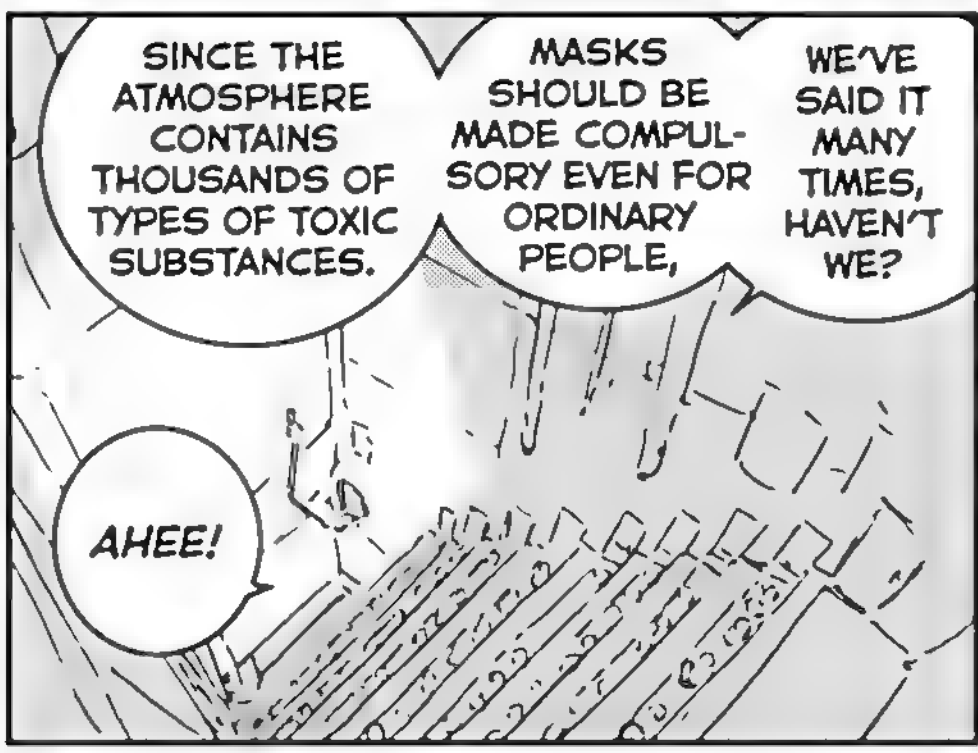

WE MUST DEVOTE ALL OUR ENERGIES TO DEALING WITH IT.
THE FRAME DISEASE CONTAM-INANT IS A GRAVE THREAT WHICH COULD SHAKE THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE EMPIRE.

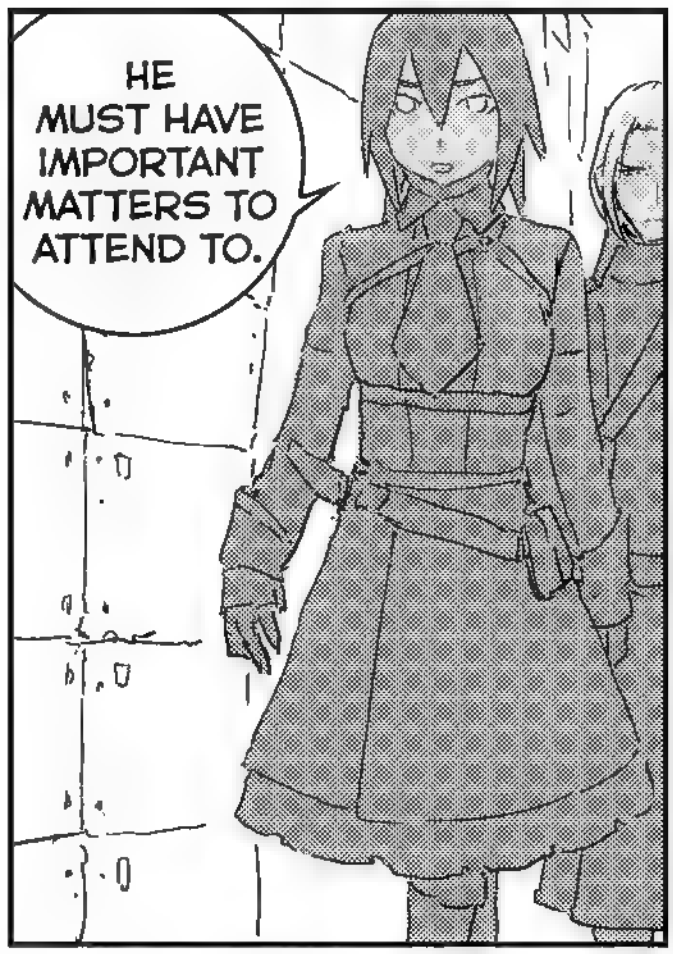

THE FIRST THING WE SHOULD DO IS INCREASE PRODUCTION OF MASKS AND DISTRIBUTE THEM TO ALL IMPERIAL CITIZENS.

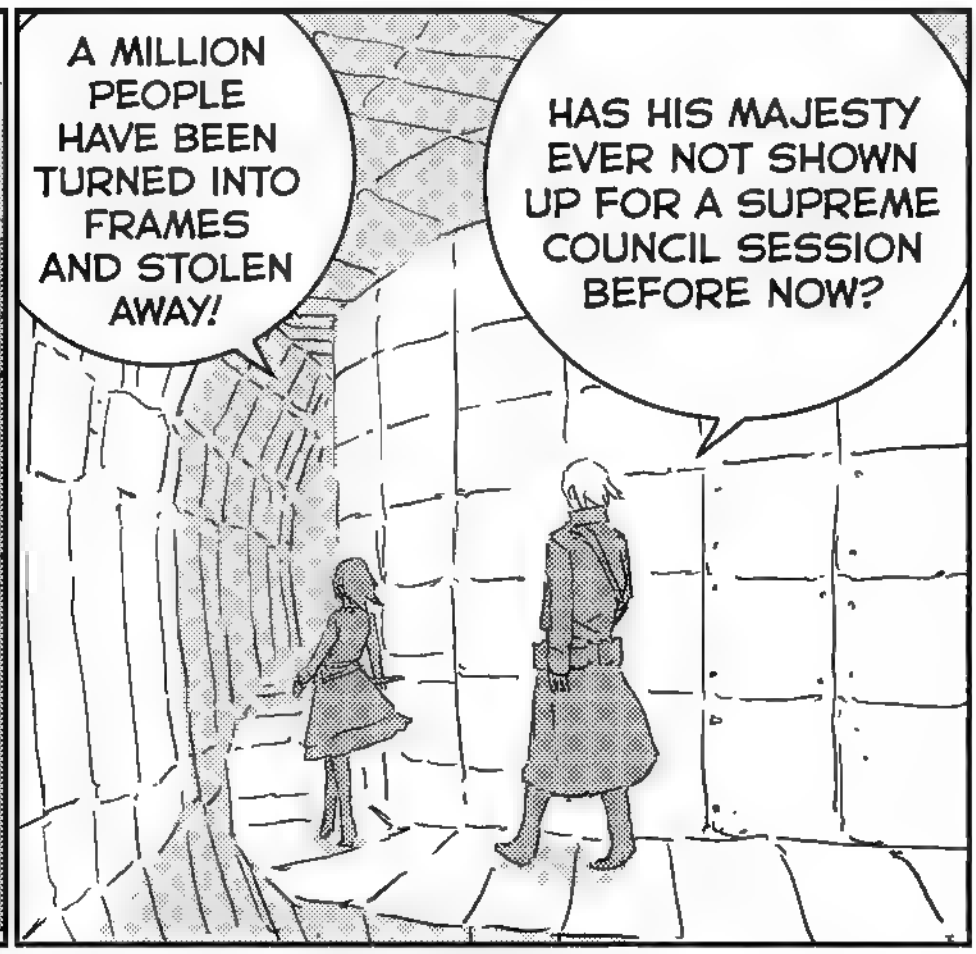
MASK USAGE IS LOW, AND THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO THE CONTAMINANT.
IN LARGE CITIES WHERE PEOPLE TEND TO LIVE IN SPACE FILLED WITH AIR,
KREDOA SUFFERED AN ENVELOPING CONTAMINANT ATTACK TODAY AND ALL RESIDENTS BECAME INFECTED.

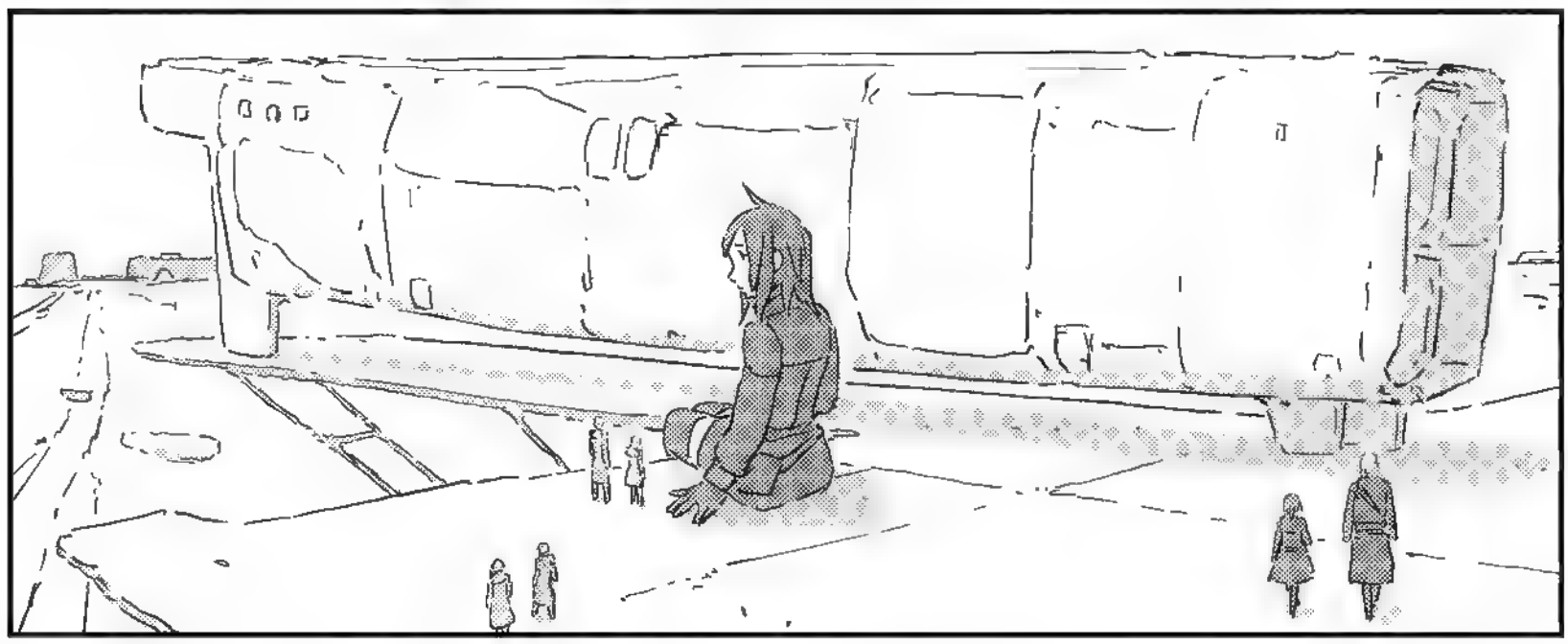

BETTER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HUMANS AGAIN. AHEE!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOCUS ON LIMITING THE SPREAD IN THE CENTRAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS AND CUTTING OFF THE NORTHERN CITIES.


THE FRAME DISEASE CONTAMINANT IS SPREADING FASTER THAN WE CAN REACH THE CITIZENRY.
AHEE!
EVEN IF WE INCREASED PRODUCTION NOW, WE CAN'T STOP THE DIFFUSION OF THE CONTAMINANT.


SINCE THE ATMOSPHERE CONTAINS THOUSANDS OF TYPES OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES.
MASKS SHOULD BE MADE COMPULSORY EVEN FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE,
WE'VE SAID IT MANY TIMES, HAVEN'T WE?
AHEE!


HE MUST HAVE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.


A MILLION PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO FRAMES AND STOLEN AWAY!
HAS HIS MAJESTY EVER NOT SHOWN UP FOR A SUPREME COUNCIL SESSION BEFORE NOW?



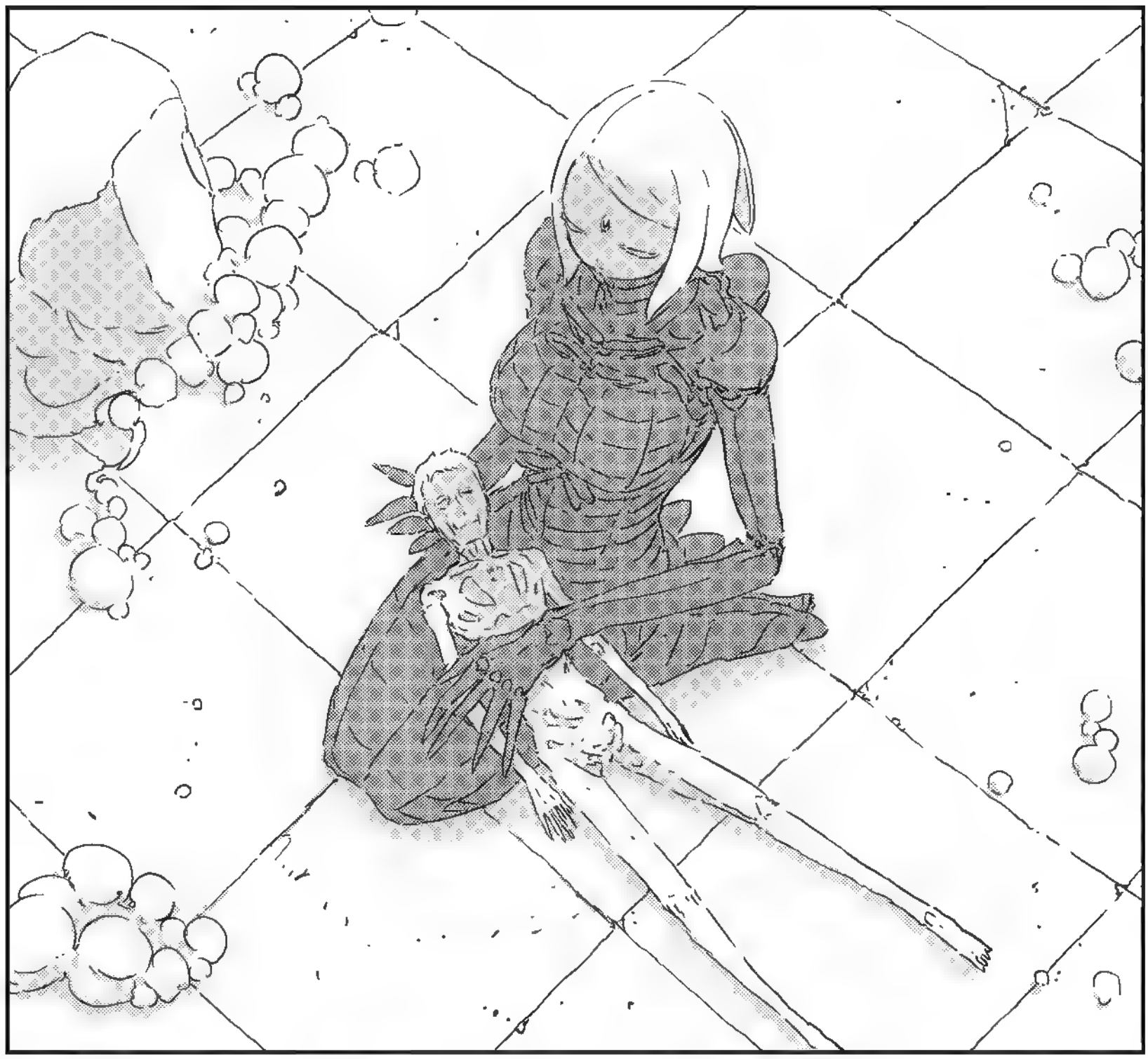
YES, MA'AM!

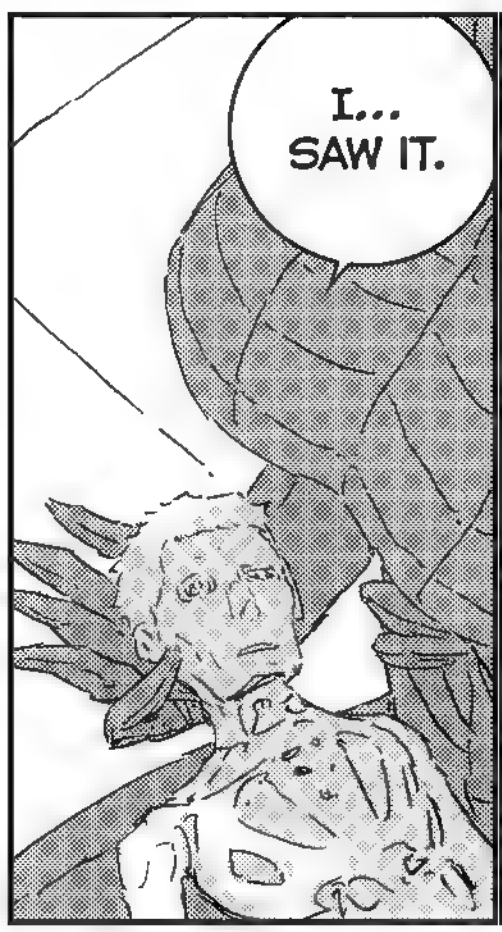
WE'RE SETTING OFF.

WELCOME BACK, BRIGADIER GENERAL JATE AND RINAI!

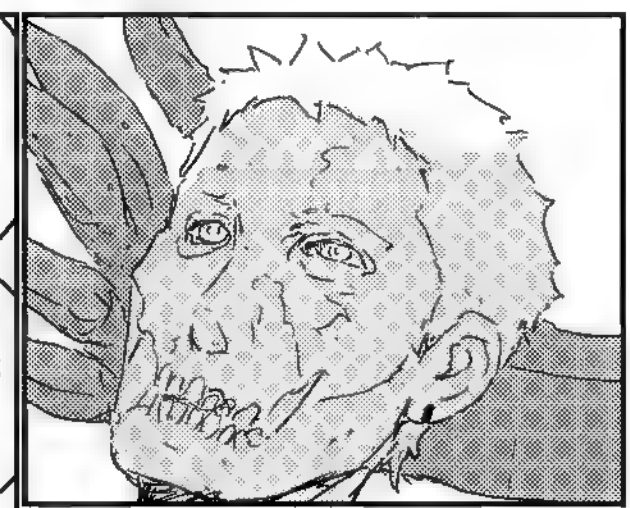
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, NICHIKO SUOU.

TITANIA.
OH...




I... SAW IT.

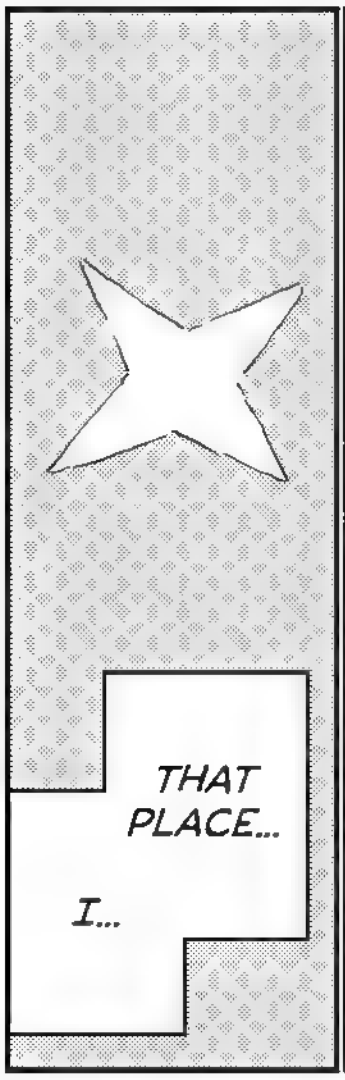
IS HE STILL MAKING HER CARRY IT?! AT THIS RATE,
HER PLACENTA RESERVES REALLY WILL RUN OUT!
HE SAYS IT'S FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE,
BUT JUST WHAT IS HIS MAJESTY DOING?!

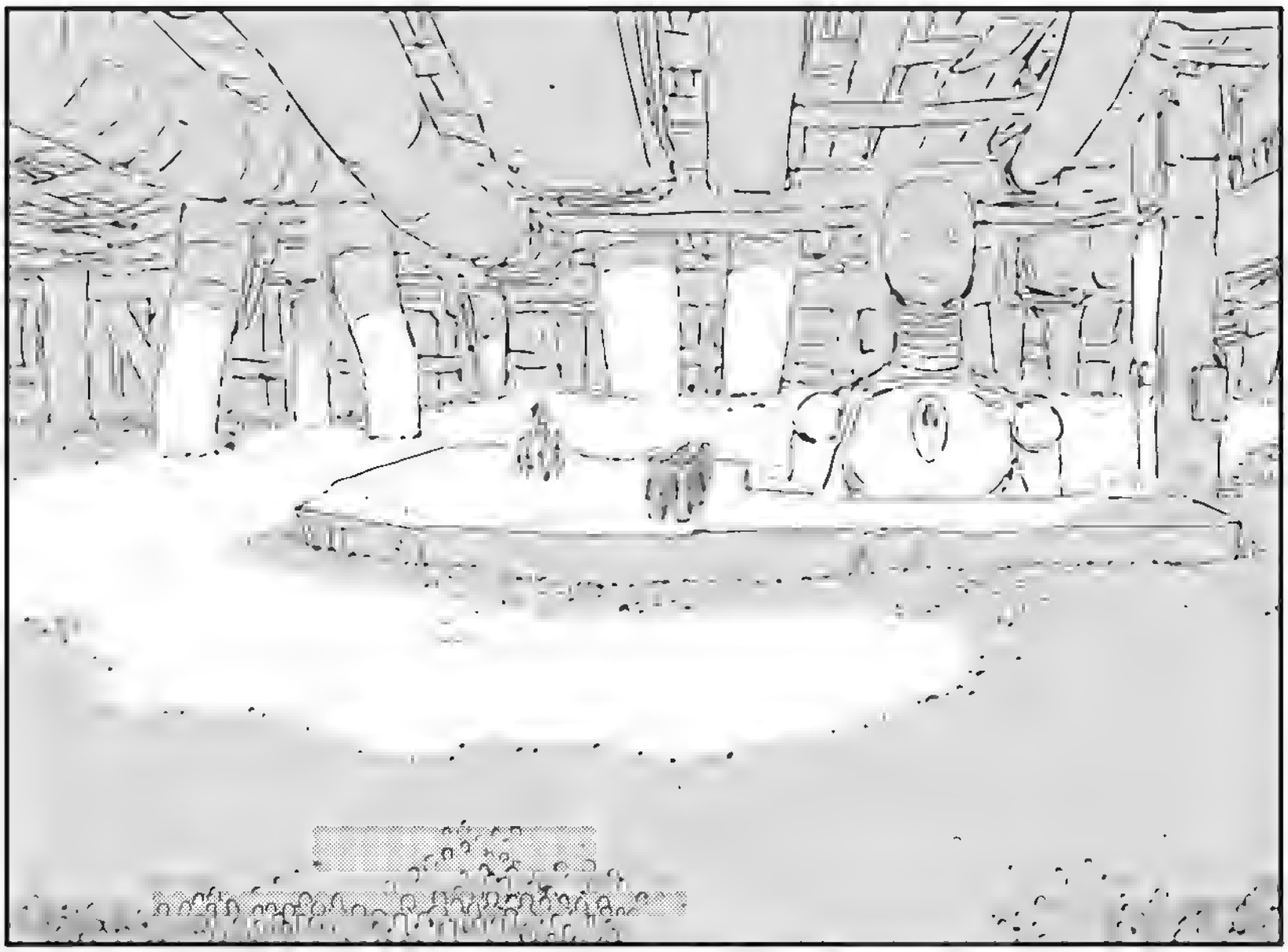


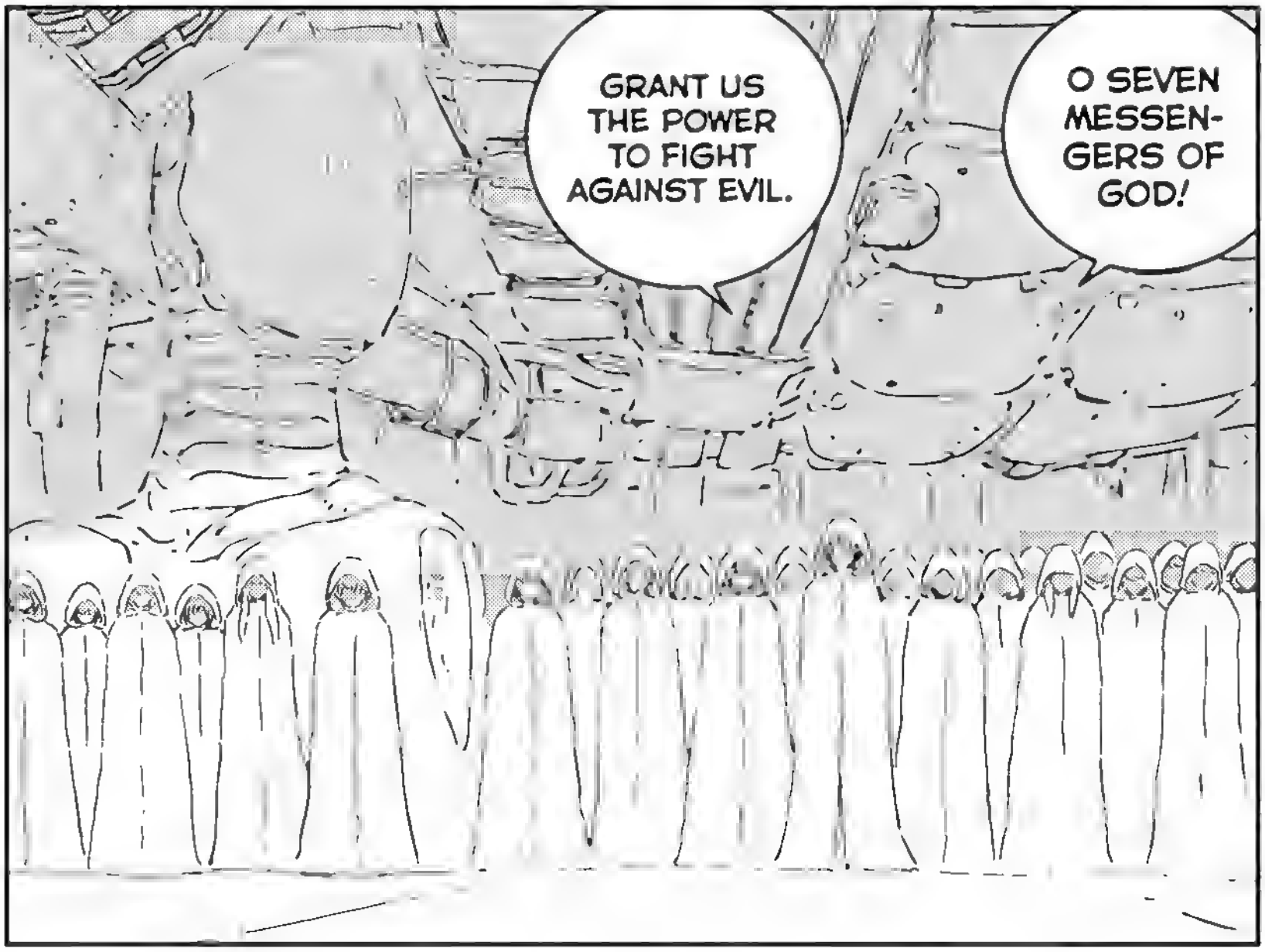
SEEKING OUT A DESIRED FUTURE FROM WITHIN THEM WAS AN ALMOST OVERWHELMING TASK.

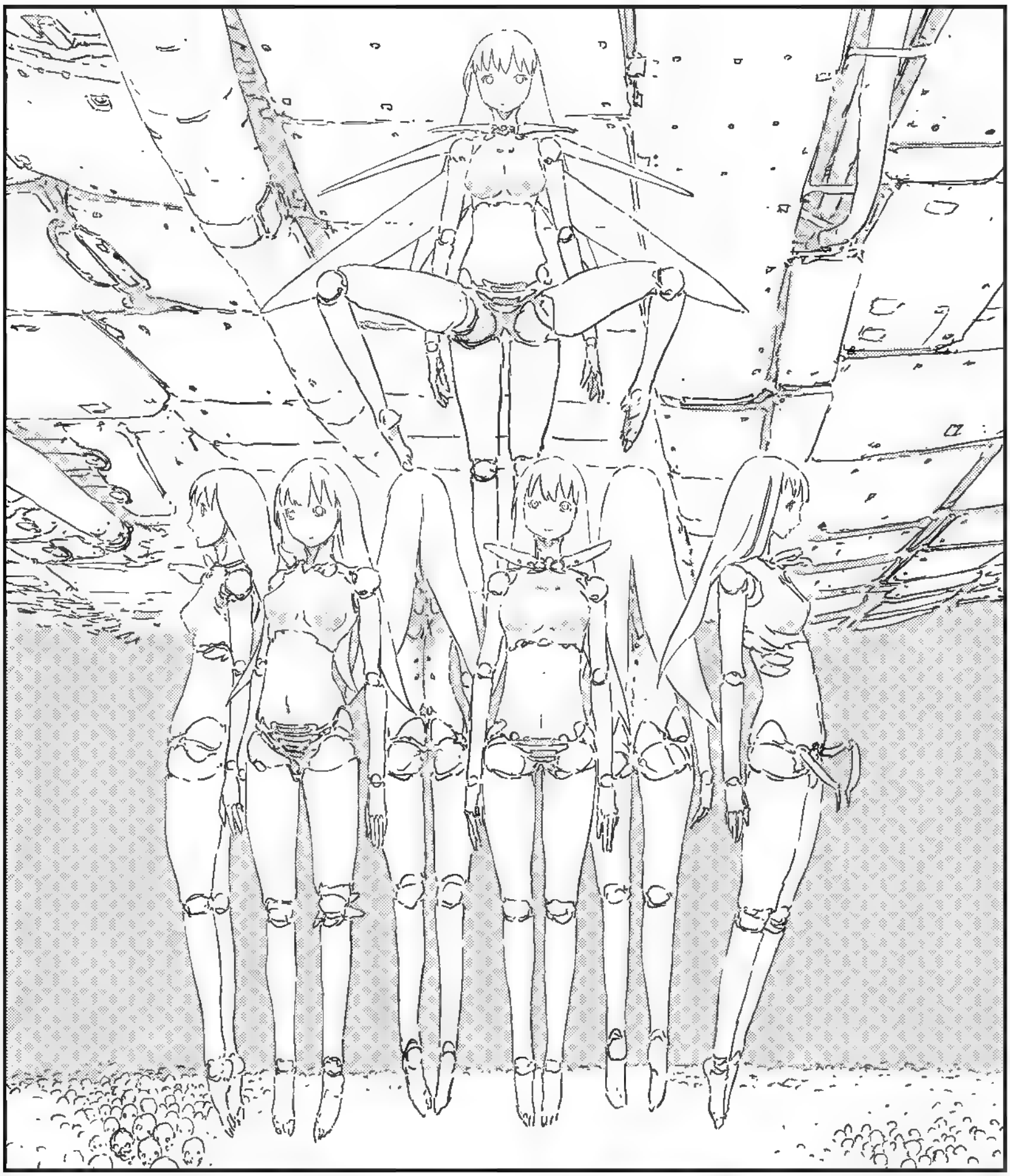
COUNTLESS DIVERGING POINTS WITHIN A HUGE FLOOD.

ETHEROW AND I WILL FIGHT ONE-ON-ONE,

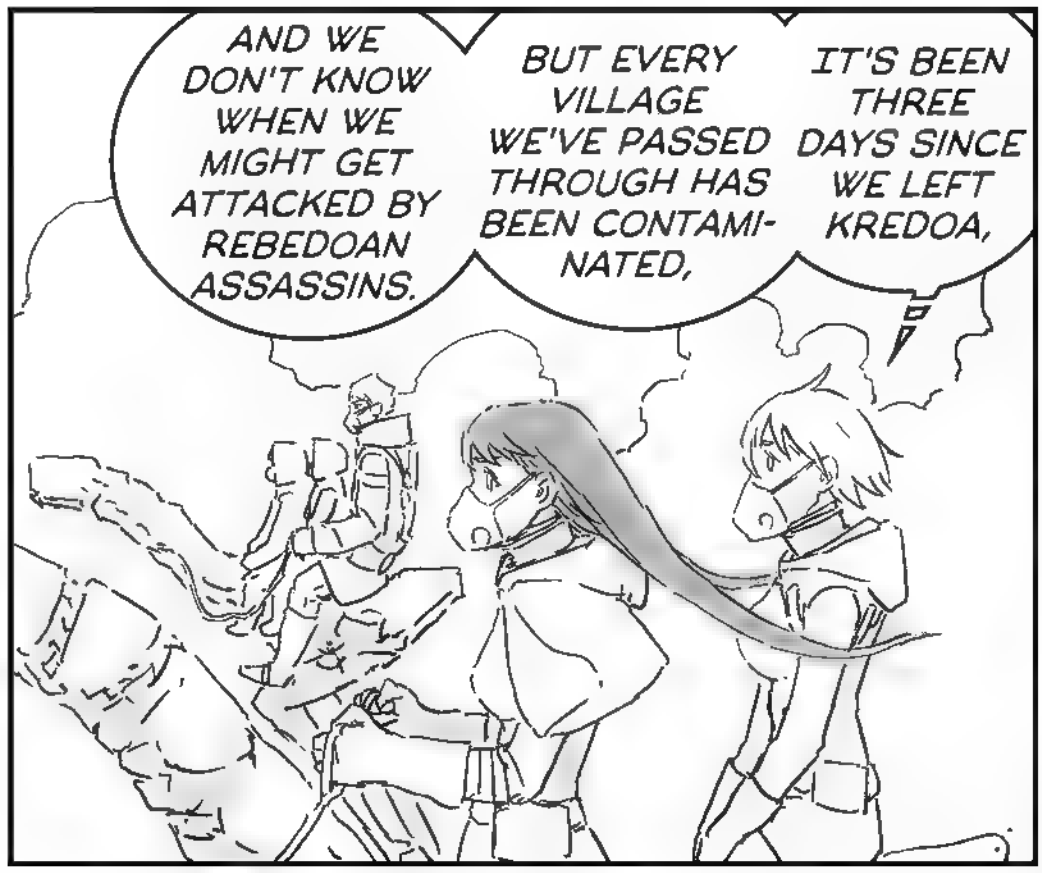


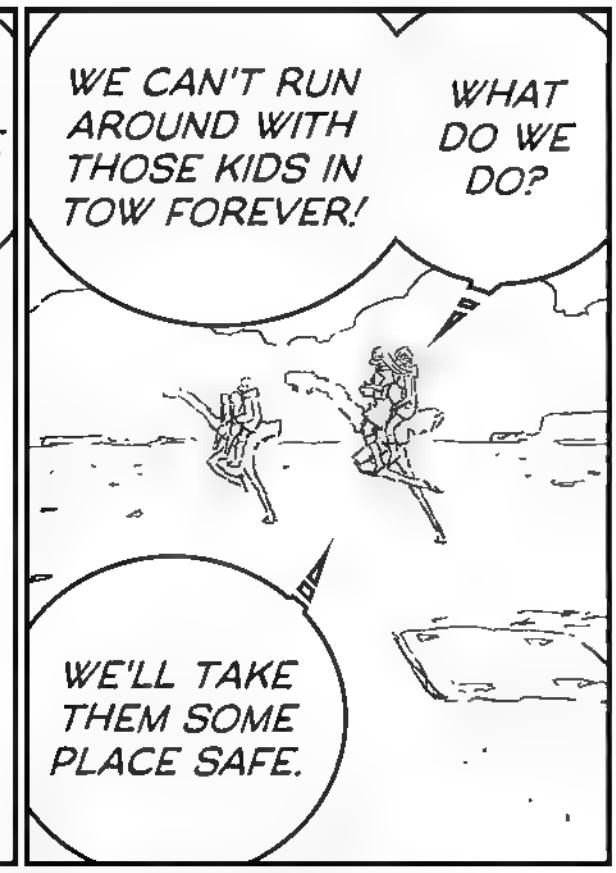


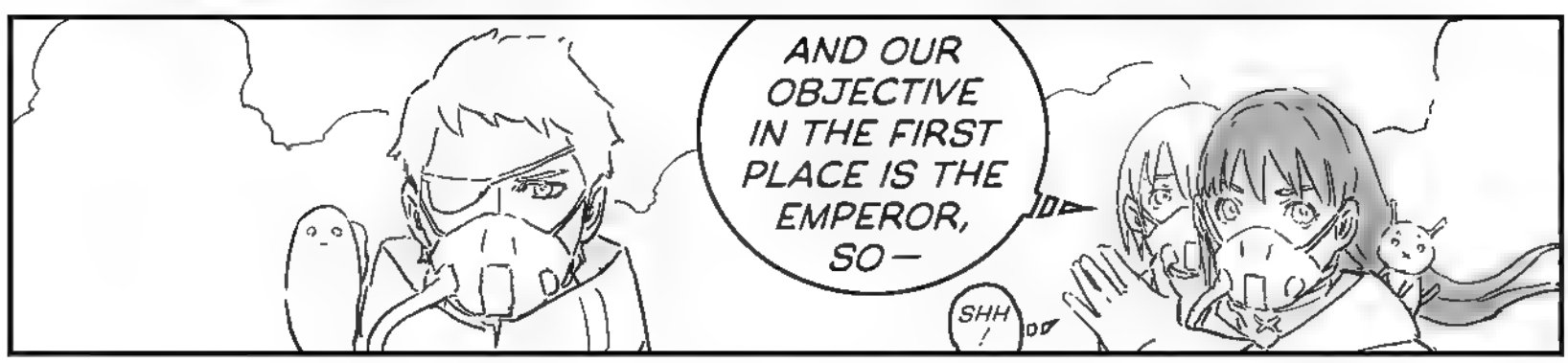

GRANT US THE POWER TO FIGHT AGAINST EVIL.
O SEVEN MESSEN-GERS OF GOD!

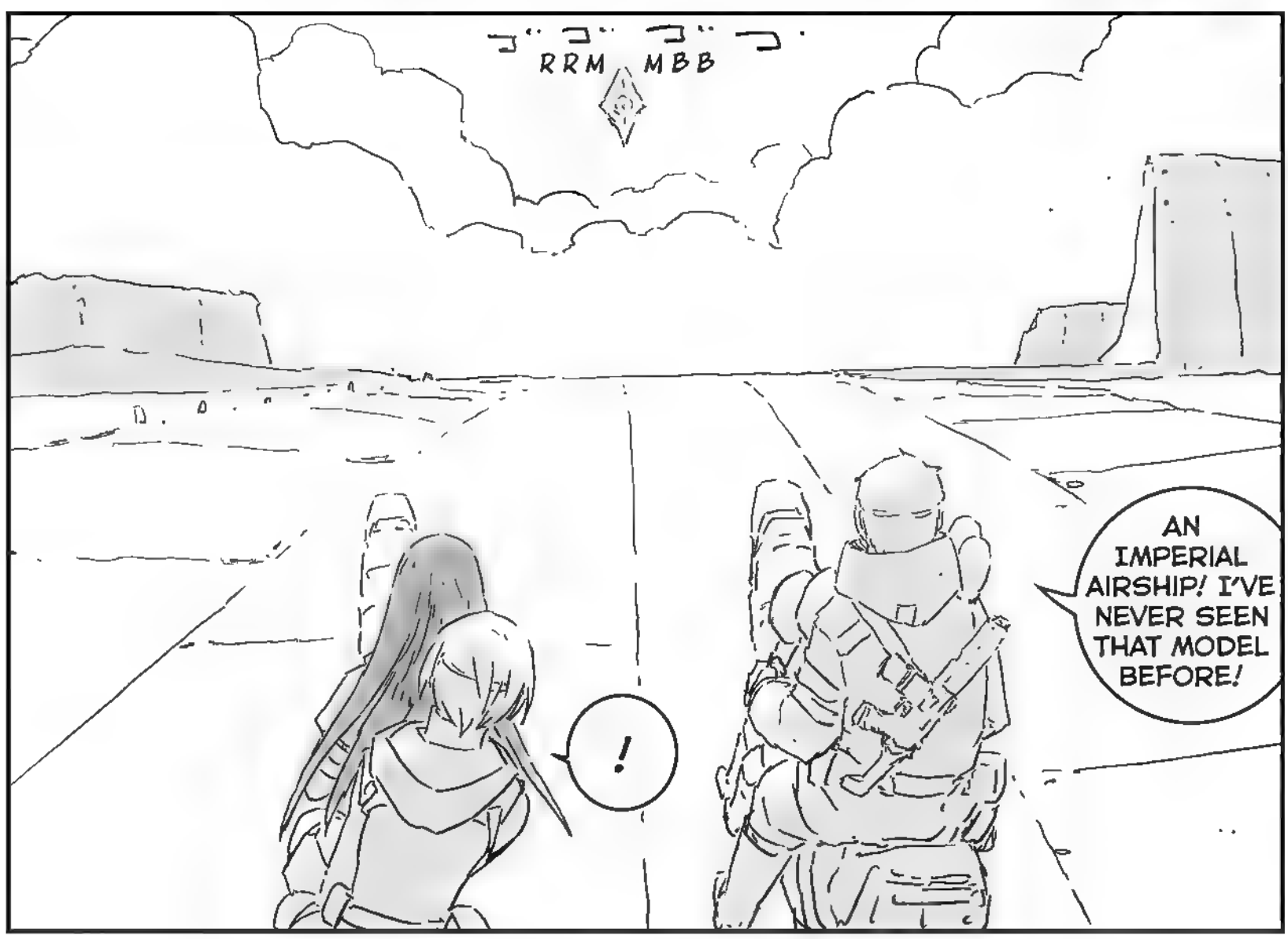


I WILL STAMP OUT ALL THOSE WHO DARED TO LOOK DOWN ON ME.
NO MATTER HOW I TRIED, I WASN'T ABLE TO REPLICATE MORE THAN SIX CLONES, BUT NEVER MIND.
EVEN SO, THE SPEED OF REGENERATED CREATION IS NOW SEVEN TIMES FASTER.



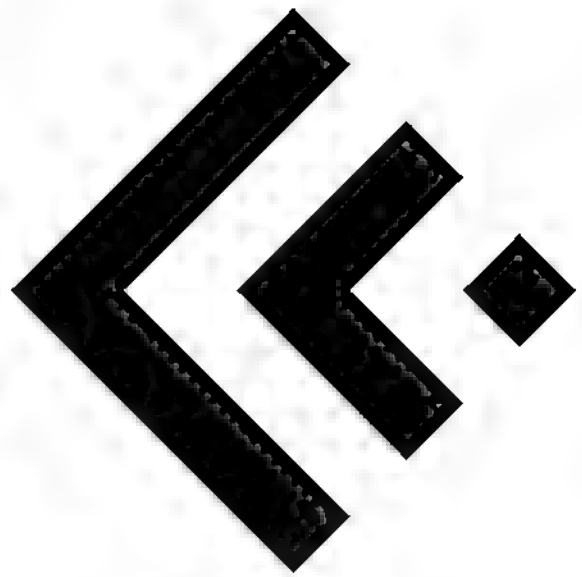






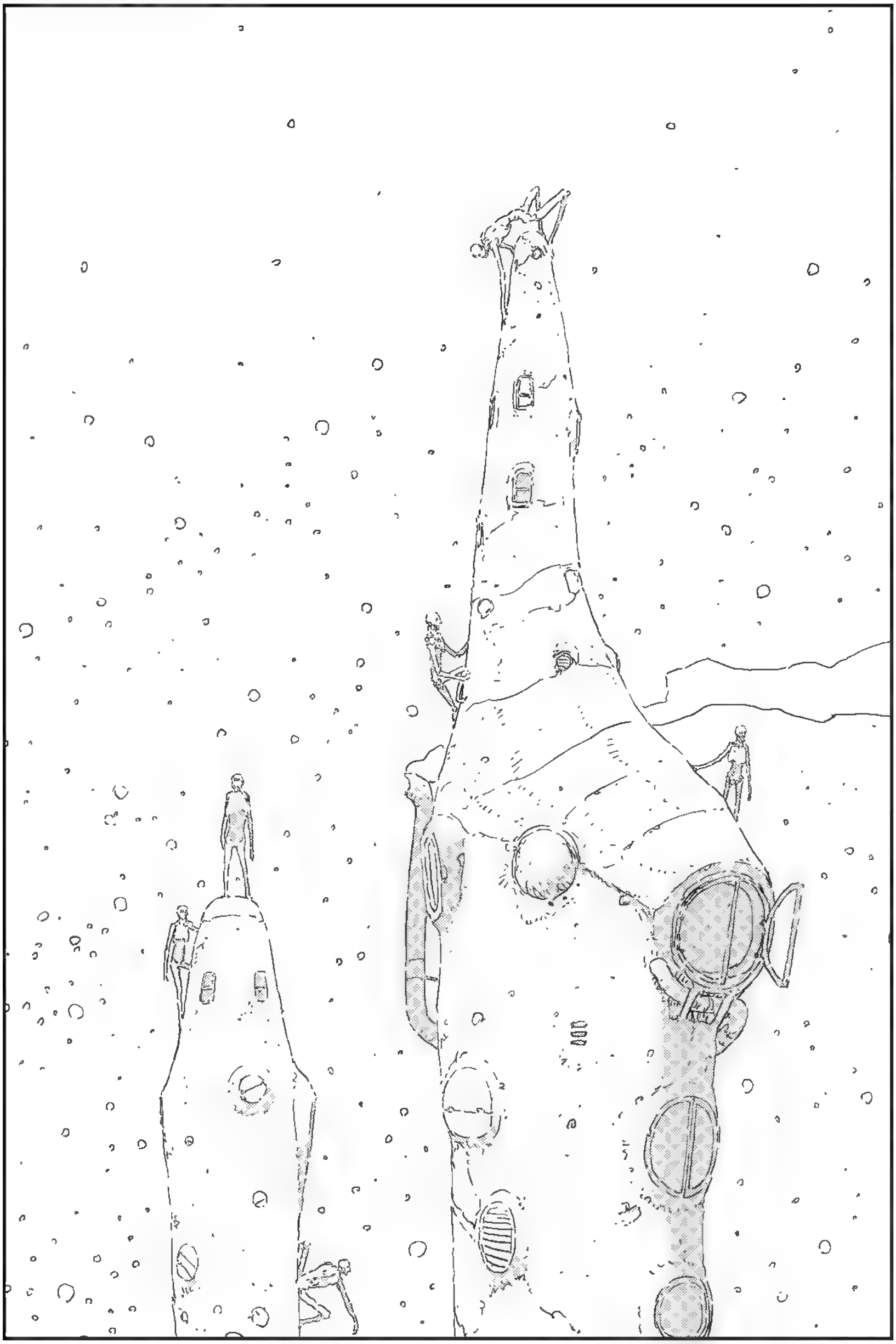
CHAPTER 46 END

APOSIMZ



FORMER IMPERIAL SOLDIER WASABI (ARMORING UP FOR COMBAT)

CHAPTER 47



IT'S BECAUSE THERE WERE MORE THAN A MILLION INFECTED IN KREDOA.

THE HIGHER-UPS PROBABLY THOUGHT IT'D BE A SIMPLE THING TO FOLLOW THEM.

THAT'S HOW WE KNOW KAJIWAN IS BEHIND IT.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, IT'S BIZARRE THAT A MILLION INFECTED COULD SUDDENLY JUST DISAPPEAR, ISN'T IT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BRIGADIER GENERAL JATE EVEN TRIED SEARCHING FOR THEM WITH SUMMONED MACHINES, BUT COULDN'T LOCATE THEIR WHERE-ABOUTS.
THE INFECTED SPLIT UP, SCATTERED AND EVADED US.
...
THEY'RE EXPERTS AT TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN TRICK AUTOMATONS.
HUH?
THE PEOPLE OF IRF NIKK INHERITED KNOWLEDGE OF ANCIENT MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.
DID YOU BOARD THIS VESSEL NOT KNOWING WHAT IT IS?
BUT HOW DO WE LOOK FOR THEM? ISN'T IT HOPELESS?
OH, NOW I SEE.
THAT'S WHY WE KNOW THEY MUST BE GATHERED AND HIDING
IN A PLACE THAT'S ENCHANTED TO ESCAPE THE EYES OF ANY AUTOMATONS!

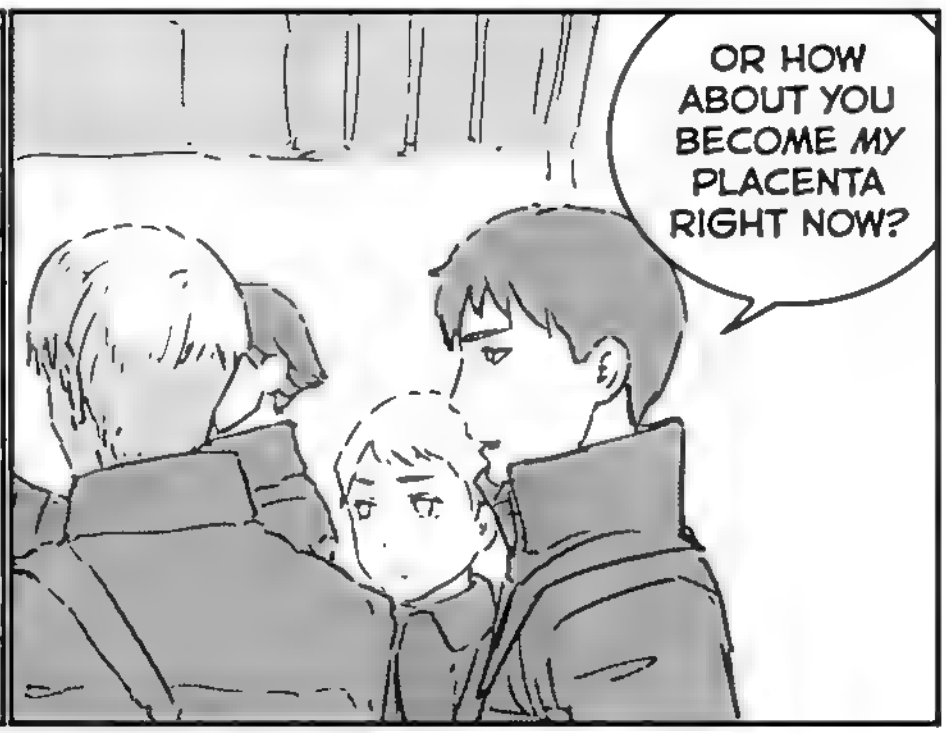
IN ANY CASE, WE'LL USE THE SUPER POWERFUL FRAME RADAR TO FIND THE CHURCH'S HIDEOUT
AND THEN ANNIHILATE THEM.
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
THIS THING CAN DETECT THE FAINTEST PARTICLES GIVEN OFF BY FRAMES EVEN AT GREAT DISTANCES!
THIS SHIP IS MAINLY A HAIGHS PARTICLE AMPLIFIER.
ITS STRUCTURE IS SPECIALIZED FOR VERTICAL DIRECTIONALITY FOR UNDER-GROUND EXPLORATION!
... OH...
YEAH. I'M SICK OF BORING GUARD DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.
ME TOO. I'M HOPING TO GO ALL OUT WITH MY REINCARNATED ABILITIES.
AN INTERESTING MISSION. THIS WILL BE MY FIRST ACTUAL COMBAT EXPERIENCE.
WITH HARDLY ANY EXPLANA-TION!
AH. SO THAT'S WHY THEY ASSEMBLED US
THE IMPERIAL MAINLAND AND ITS CITIZENS ARE BEING OVERRUN BY INVADERS!
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE FLIPPANT?!
THANKS TO THE TRUE CORE CHURCH SCATTERING THE CONTAMINANT!
IF THIS OPERATION GOES WELL, WE COULD BECOME TOP-RANK REIN-CARNATEDS!
AH HA HA HA

YOU WON'T SURVIVE IN A BATTLEFIELD. YOU NEED TO WORK HARDER ON YOUR PLACENTA PRACTICE.
IF YOU CAN'T FULLY CONTROL YOUR PLACENTA,

THAT UNI-FORM'S AN AWKWARD MESS.

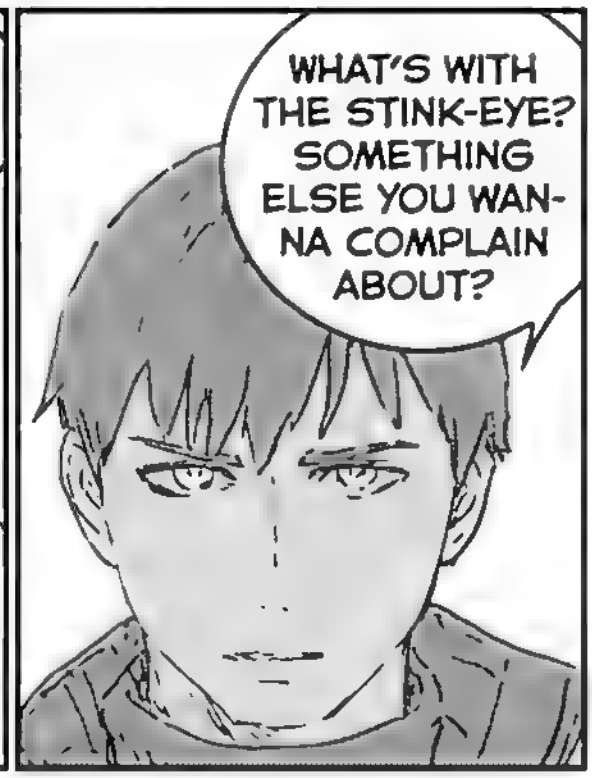
WHAT'S WITH YOU...?

...


OR HOW ABOUT YOU BECOME *MY* PLACENTA RIGHT NOW?

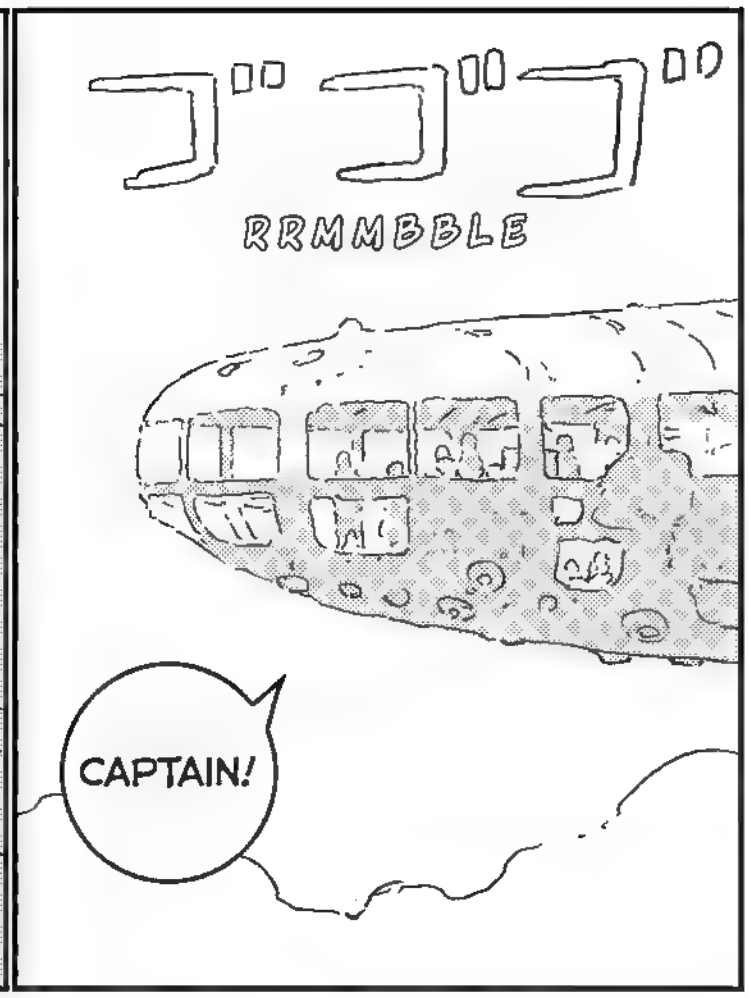
NEVER MIND. JUST COME ALONG.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU?!

?!
COME WITH ME.

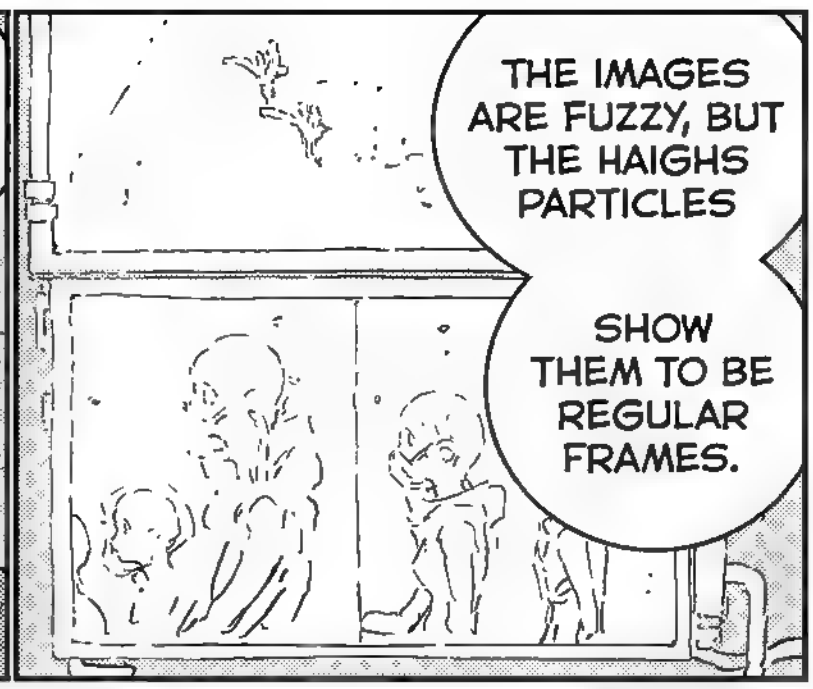

WHAT'S WITH THE STINK-EYE? SOMETHING ELSE YOU WAN-NA COMPLAIN ABOUT?

YOU REALLY WILL GET KILLED IN THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE OPERATION.
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO FLARE UP LIKE THAT?
RRMMBB
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
DID YOU HAVE FAMILY THERE...?
I'M FROM KREDOA.
I... ONLY BECAME A REINCARNATED THREE YEARS AGO, AND...
AND I'M NOSHIYO. LET'S DO IT!
I'M YATSUMA. LET'S TAKE DOWN THE CHURCH TOGETHER.
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT. THEY'RE DESPICABLE.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THE CHURCH.
BUT FOR THIS TO HAPPEN ...
WHEN I BECAME A REINCARNATED AND MY MORTAL LIFE ENDED, I WAS PREPARED FOR THAT...

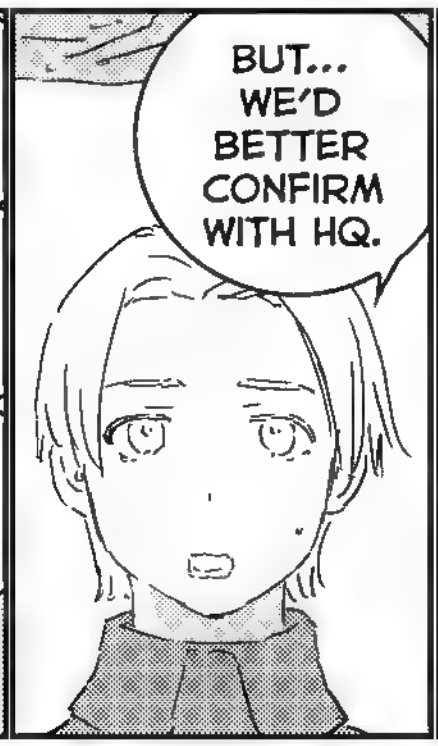
WE'VE SPOTTED SOME SUSPICIOUS REINCAR-NATEDS.
THEY'RE NOT WEARING UNIFORMS.

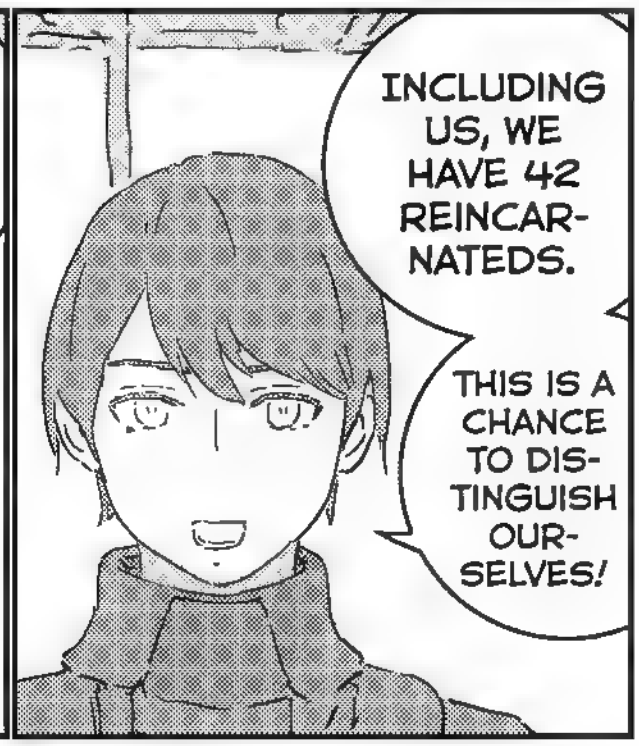

RRMMBBLE
CAPTAIN!

ETHEROW AND HIS PARTY?
THE ONES FROM THE WANTED BULLETINS ...!


THE IMAGES ARE FUZZY, BUT THE HAIGHS PARTICLES
SHOW THEM TO BE REGULAR FRAMES.

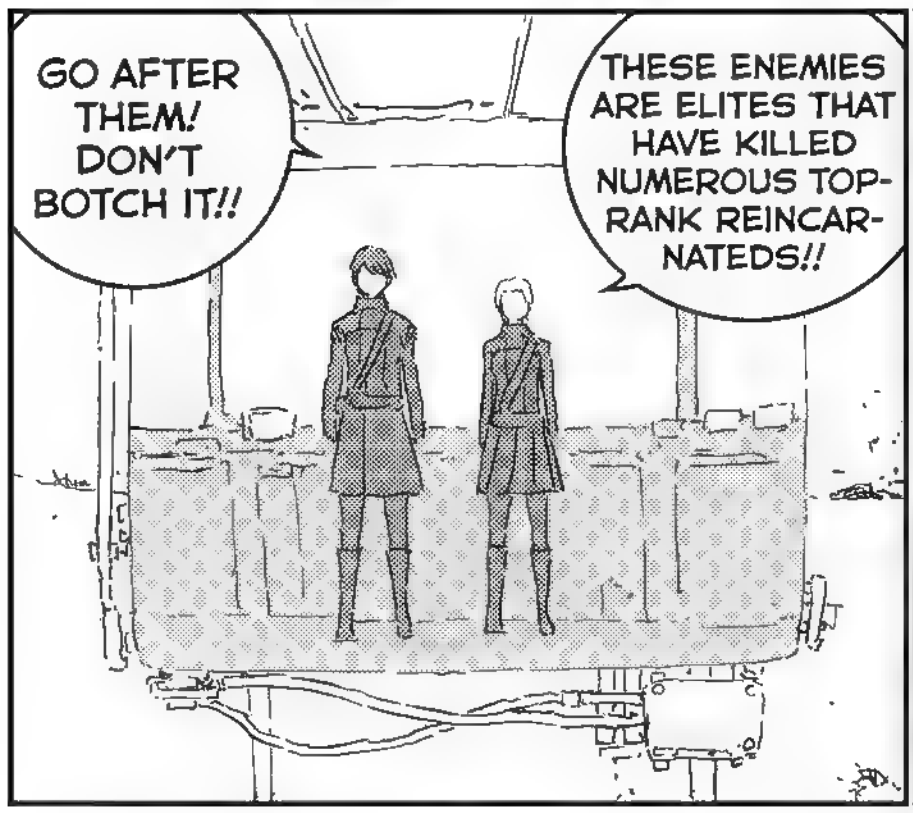
AND NO ONE WILL HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS IF WE GET THEIR AMBS.
IF WE WASTE TIME,
THEY'LL NOTICE US
AND GET AWAY!

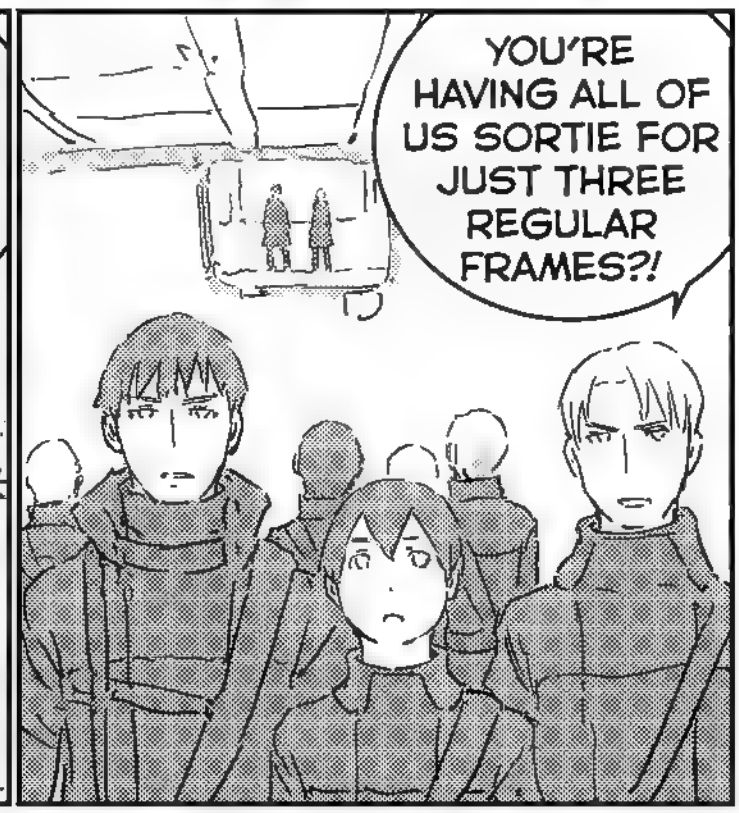

BUT... WE'D BETTER CONFIRM WITH HQ.

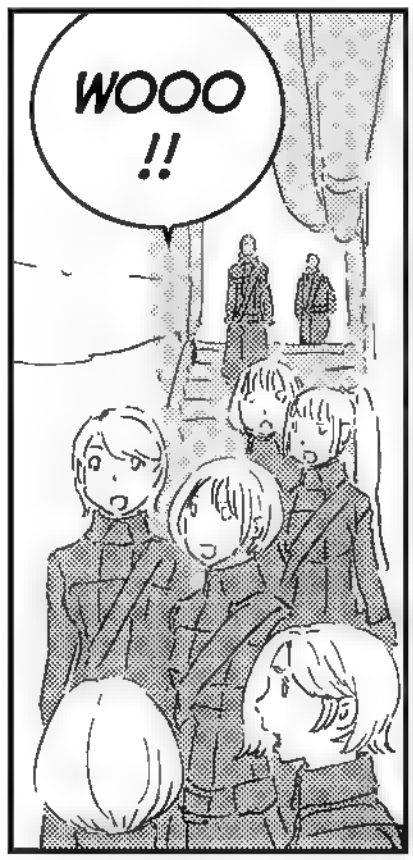

INCLUDING US, WE HAVE 42 REINCAR-NATEDS.
THIS IS A CHANCE TO DIS-TINGUISH OUR-SELVES!

I THINK IT'S A DIFFERENT ENEMY, NOT THE CHURCH.
SORTIE?! DID THEY FIND THEM ALREADY?

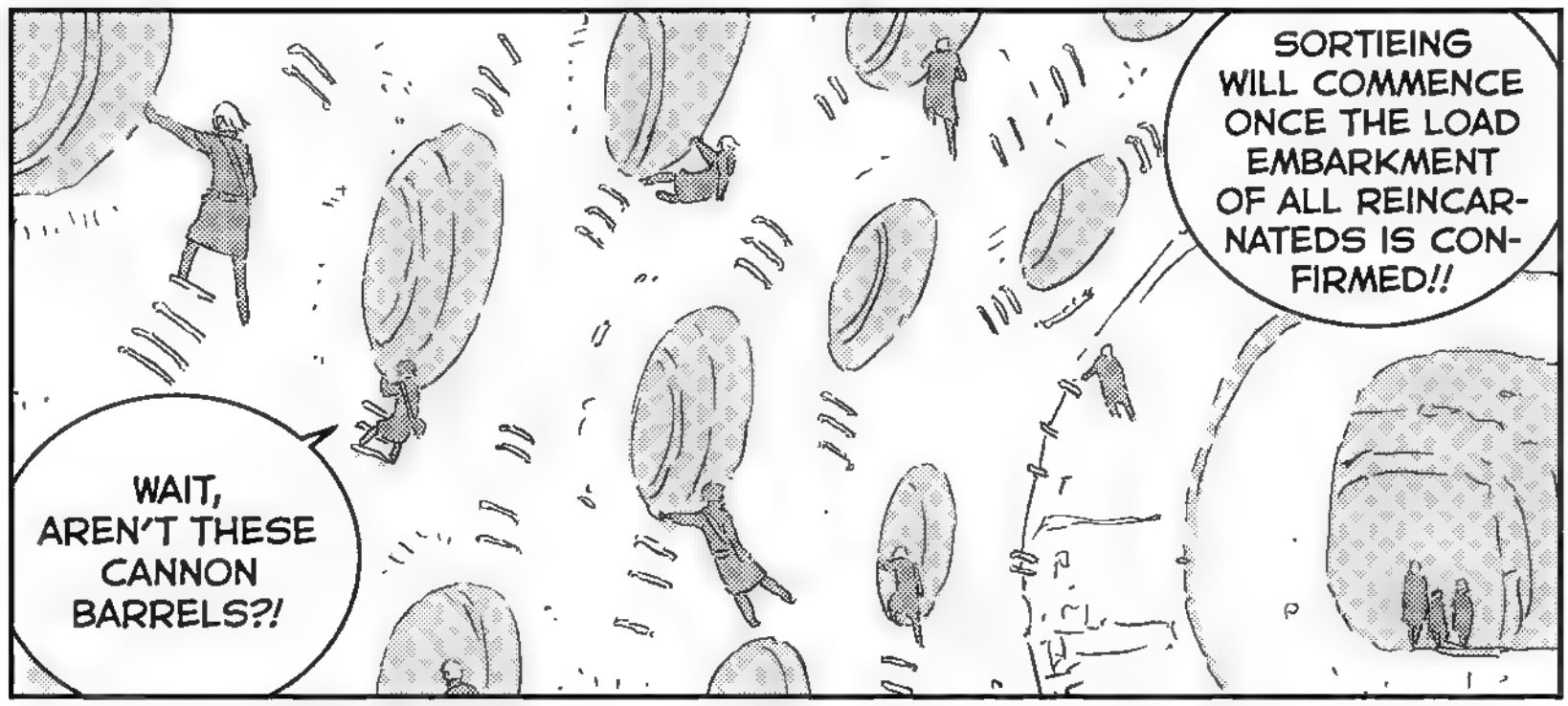
PROCEED TO EJECTORS IMMEDIATE-LY!
ALL REIN-CARNATEDS, PREPARE TO SORTIE!


GO AFTER THEM! DON'T BOTCH IT!!
THESE ENEMIES ARE ELITES THAT HAVE KILLED NUMEROUS TOP-RANK REINCAR-NATEDS!!

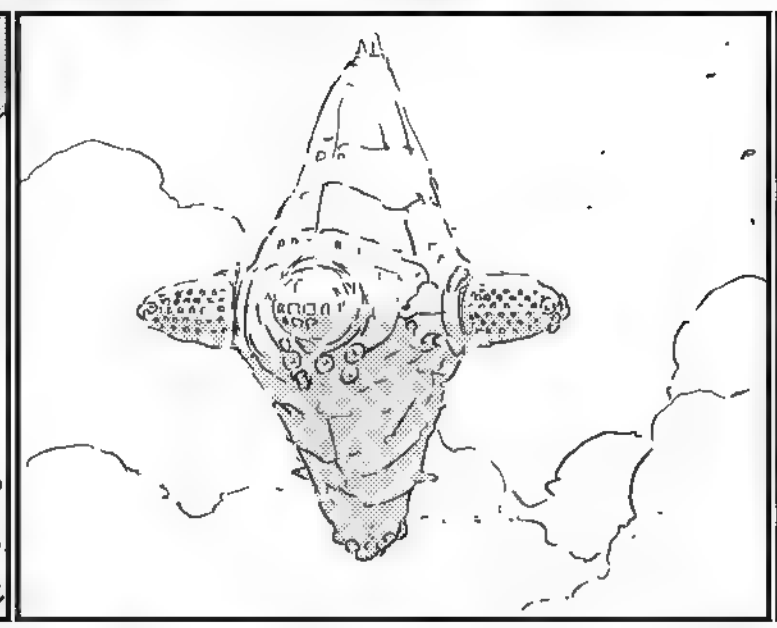

YOU'RE HAVING ALL OF US SORTIE FOR JUST THREE REGULAR FRAMES?!


WOOO !!

IF WE TAKE HIM DOWN, A PROMOTION IS CERTAIN !!
THE RED ONE IS HIDING RELICS THAT ARE IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE TO THE EMPIRE IN HIS LEFT ARM!!

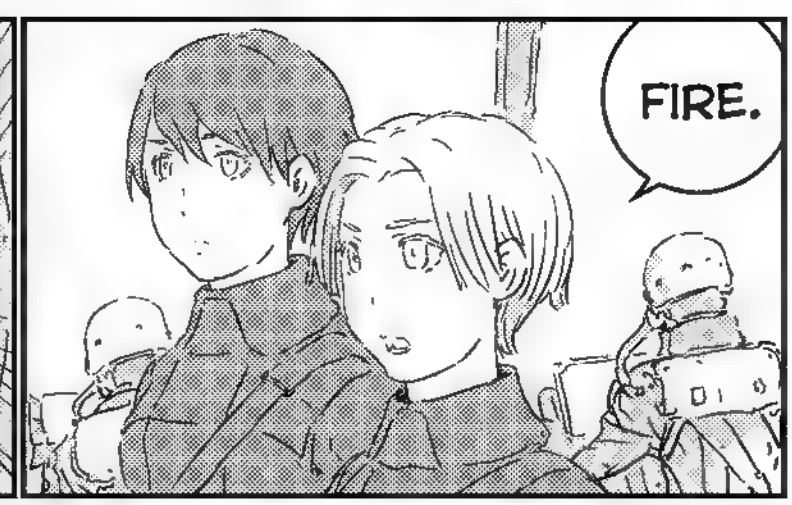

SORTIEING WILL COMMENCE ONCE THE LOAD EMBARKMENT OF ALL REINCAR-NATEDS IS CON-FIRMED!!
WAIT, AREN'T THESE CANNON BARRELS?!

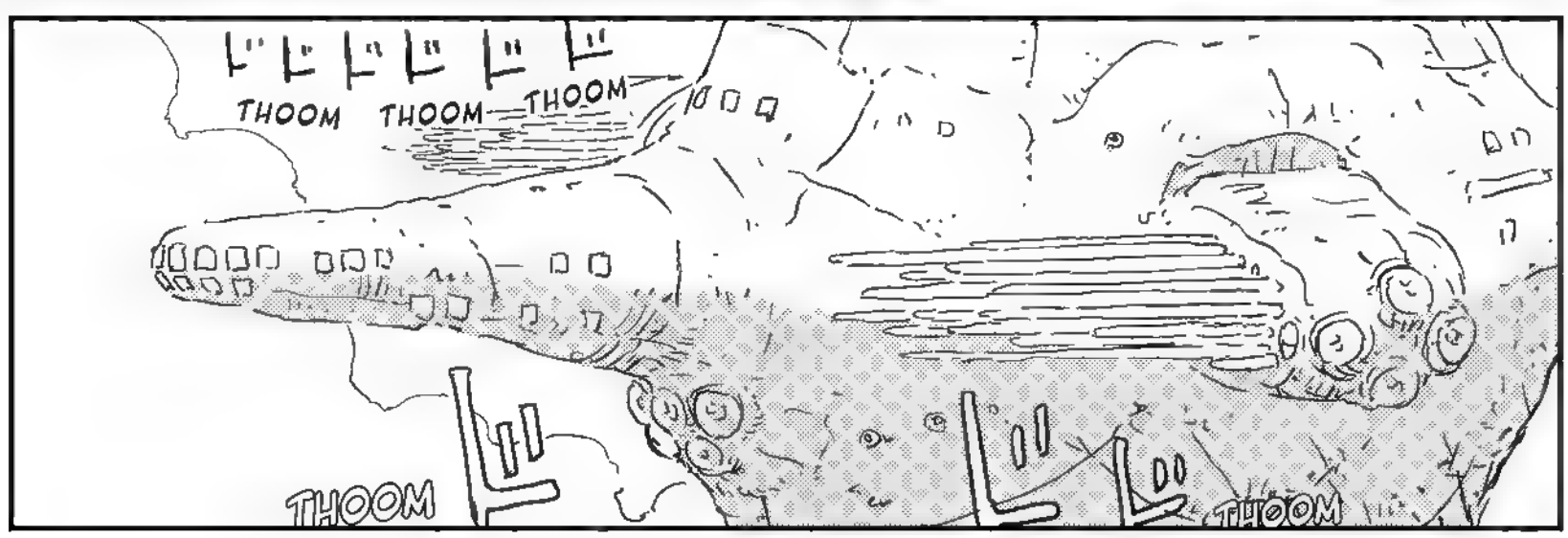
WE ARE NOW WITHIN FIRING RANGE OF THE TARGET.

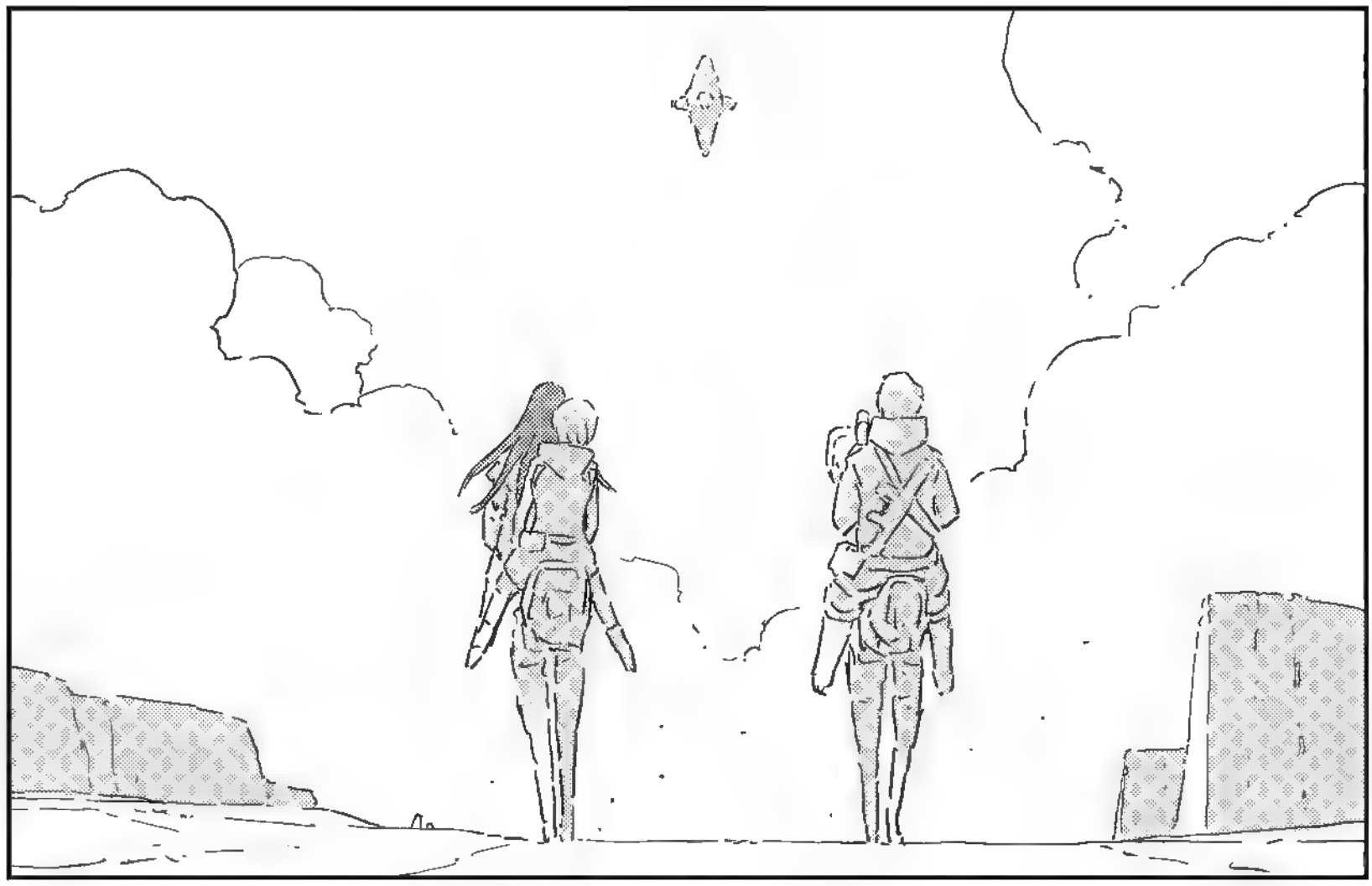


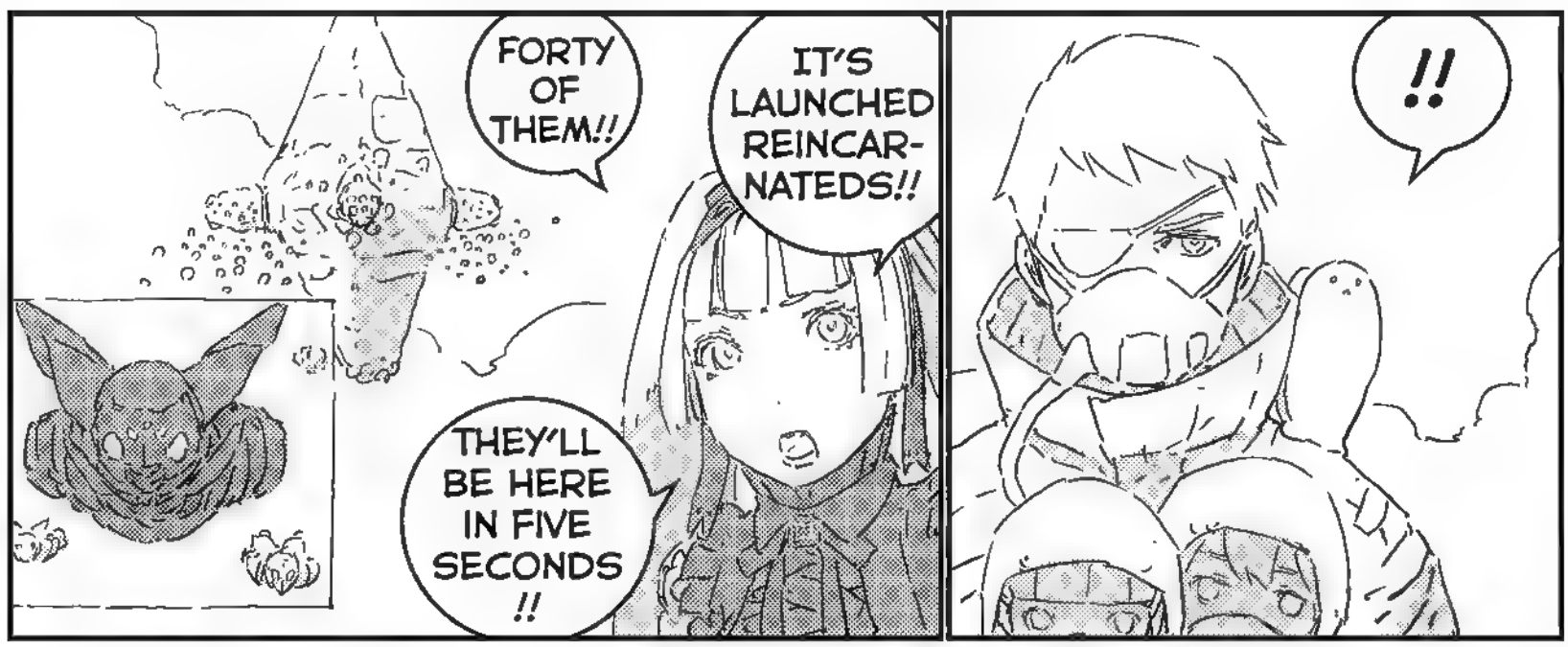
WE'RE NOT HUMAN. WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
YOUR FIRST TIME USING AN EJECTOR?

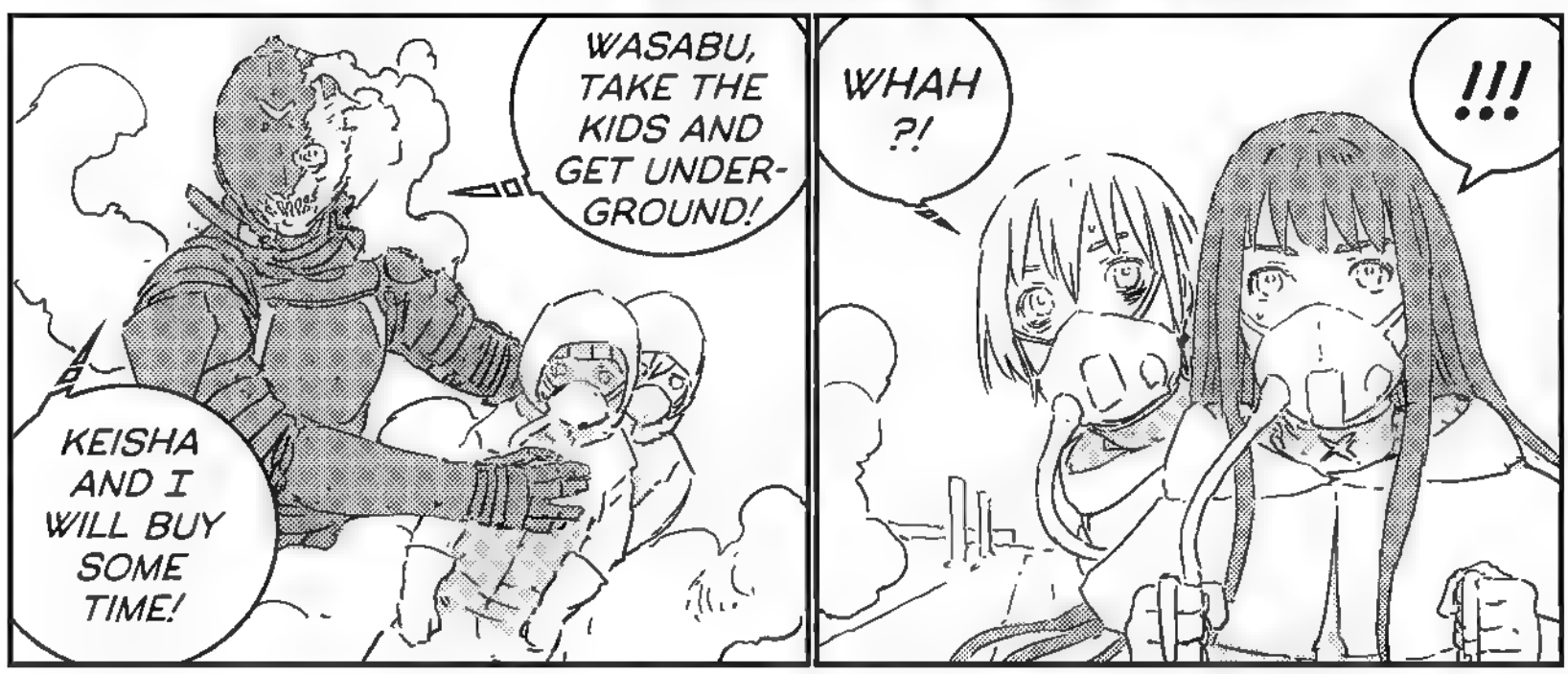
WHOAAA!!
VWOOM

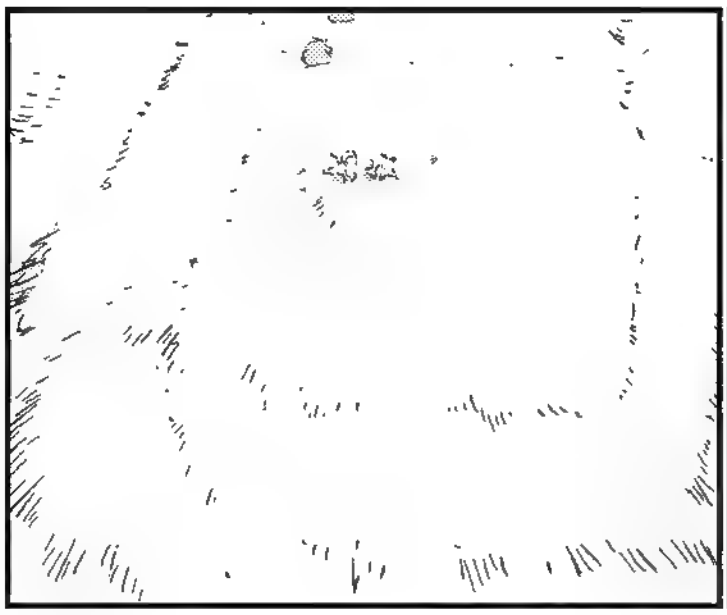

FIRE.

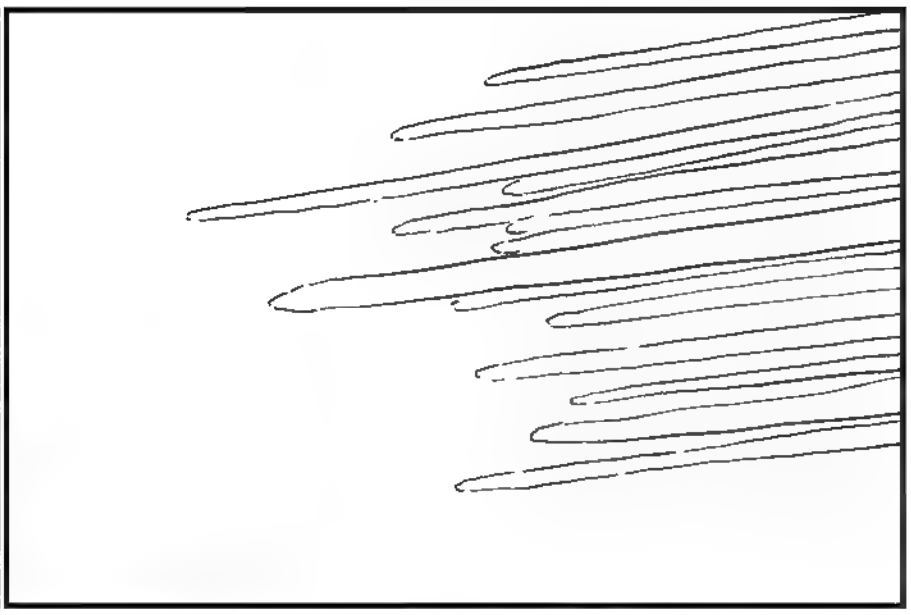

ドドドドドド
THOOM THOOM THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

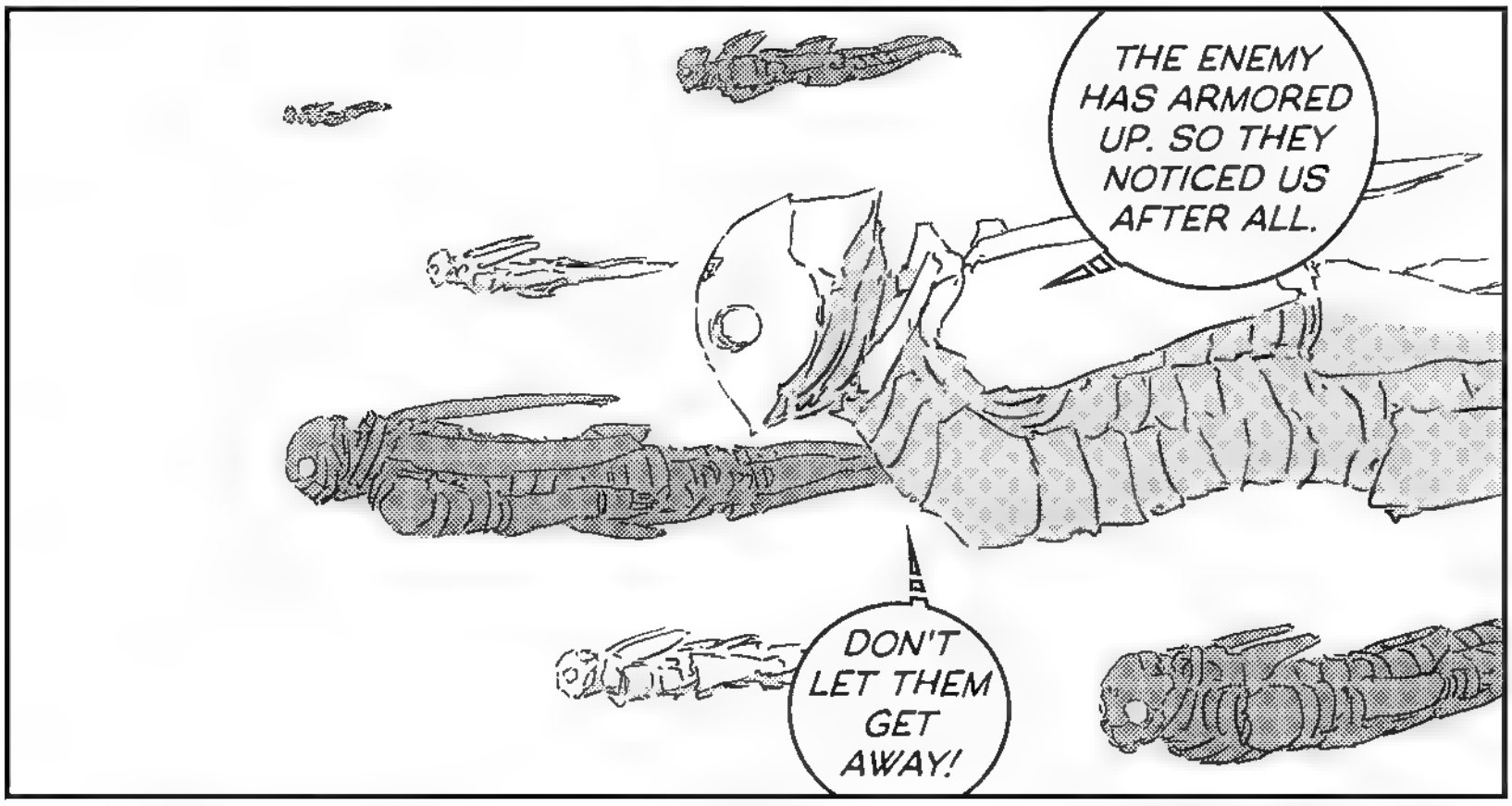


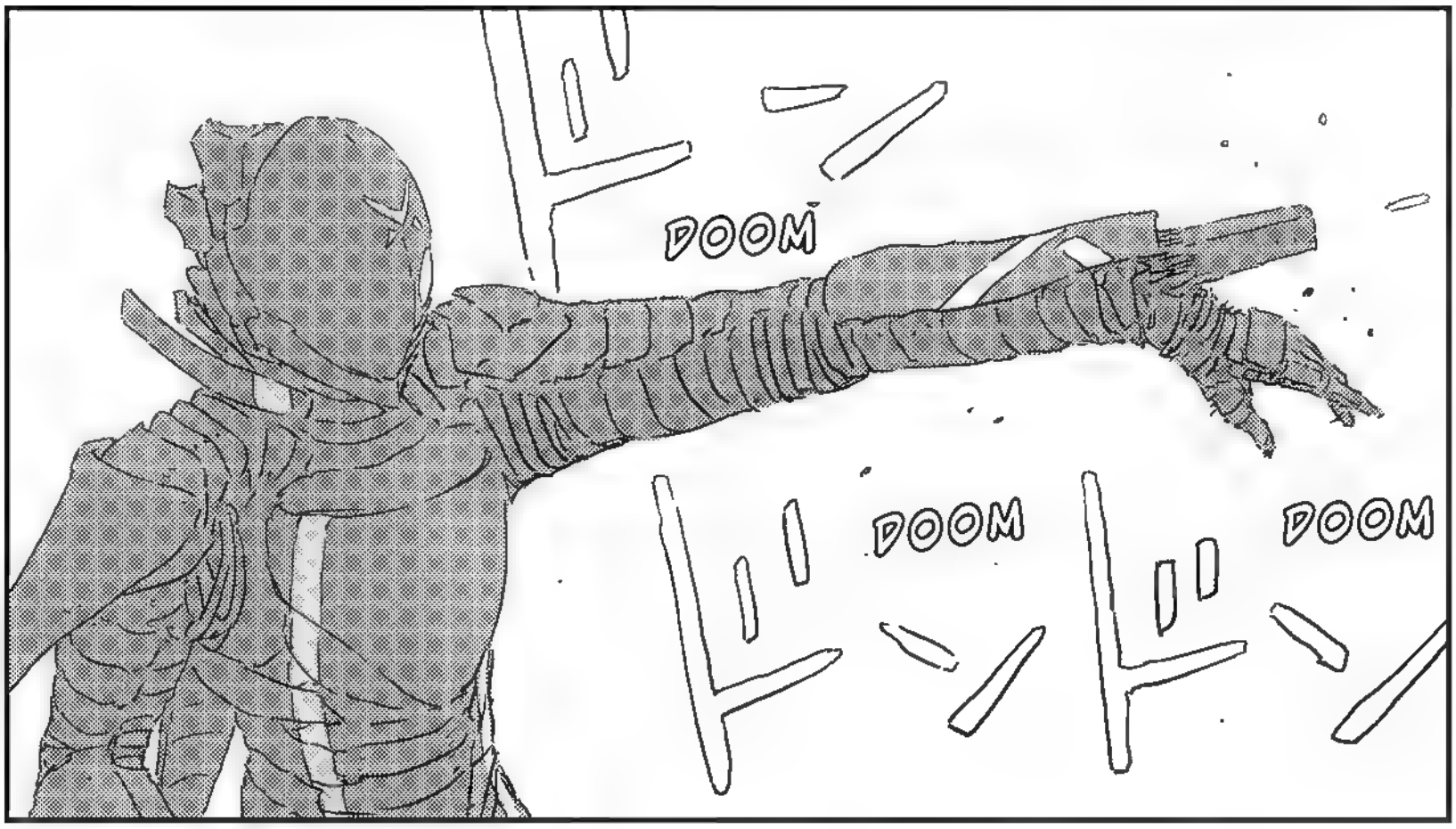

FORTY OF THEM!!
IT'S LAUNCHED REINCAR-NATEDS!!
THEY'LL BE HERE IN FIVE SECONDS !!
!!

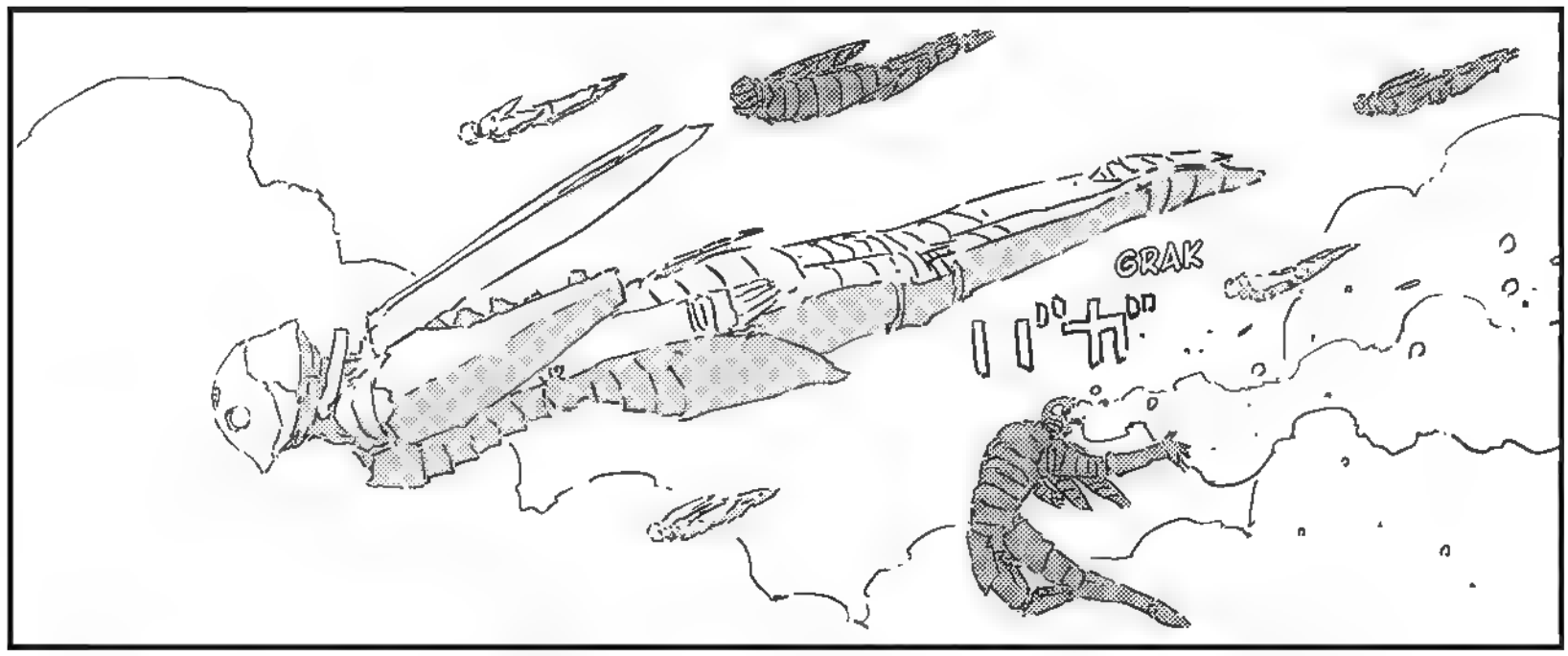

WASABU, TAKE THE KIDS AND GET UNDER-GROUND!
KEISHA AND I WILL BUY SOME TIME!
WHAH ?!
!!!



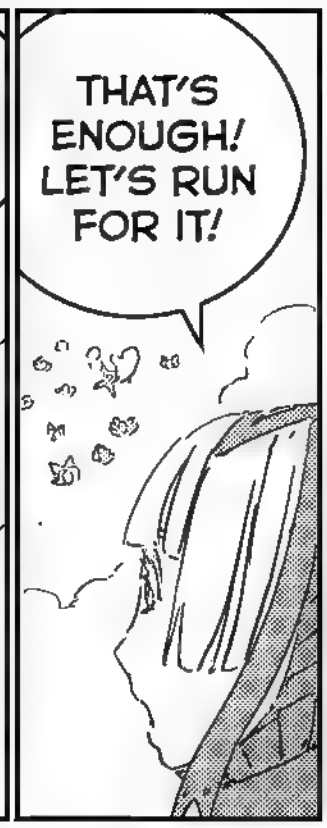



THE ENEMY HAS ARMORED UP. SO THEY NOTICED US AFTER ALL.
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

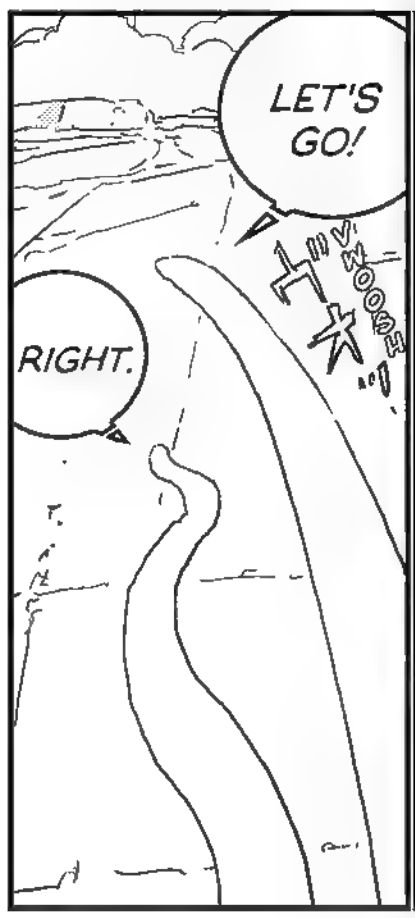

DOOM
DOOM
DOOM


GRAK

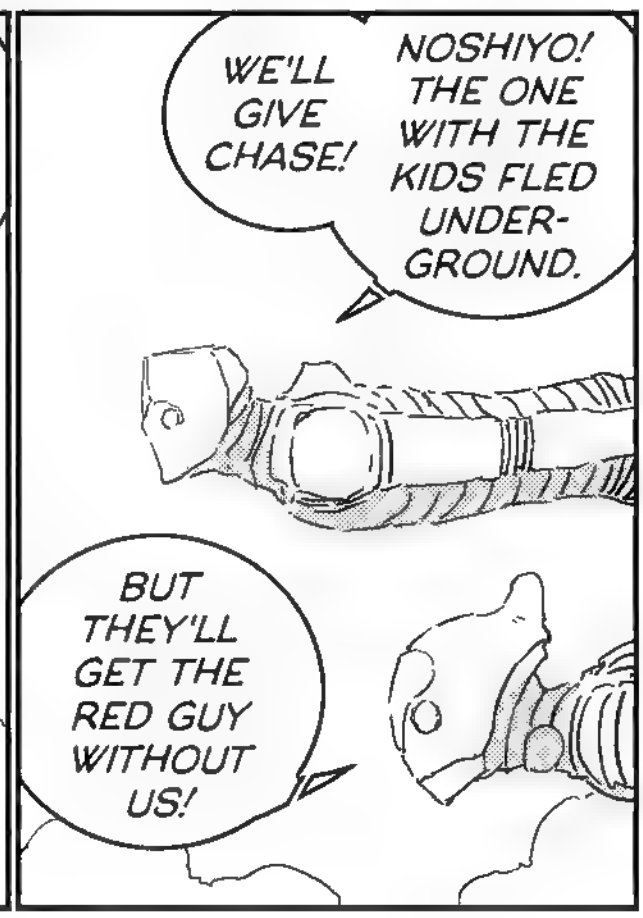
THEY'RE FIRING AT US?!!
SKASH
THEY THINK THEY CAN TAKE ON THIS MANY OF US?!

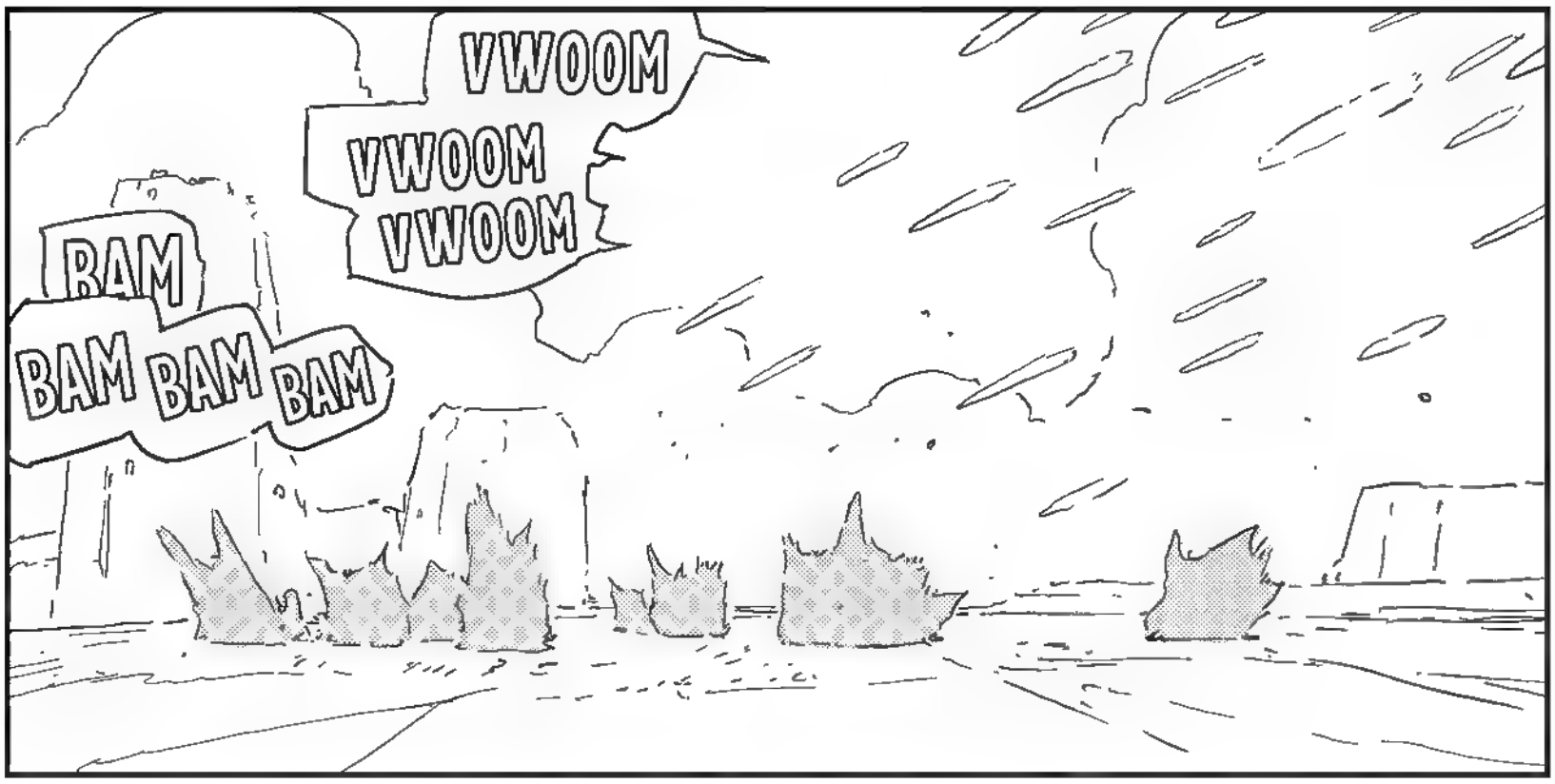

THAT'S ENOUGH! LET'S RUN FOR IT!

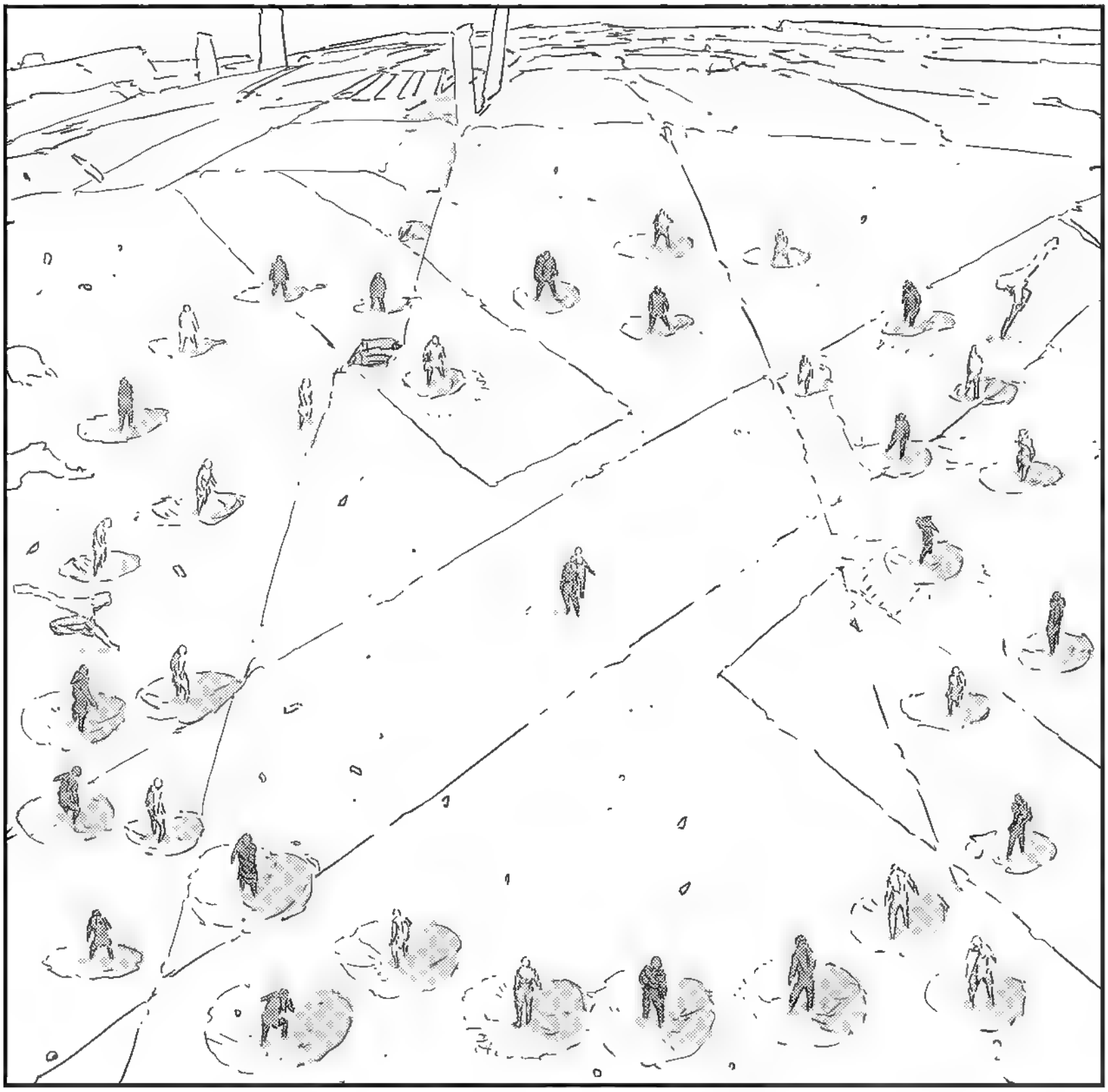
BKAM
KRAM
BLAM
BLAM

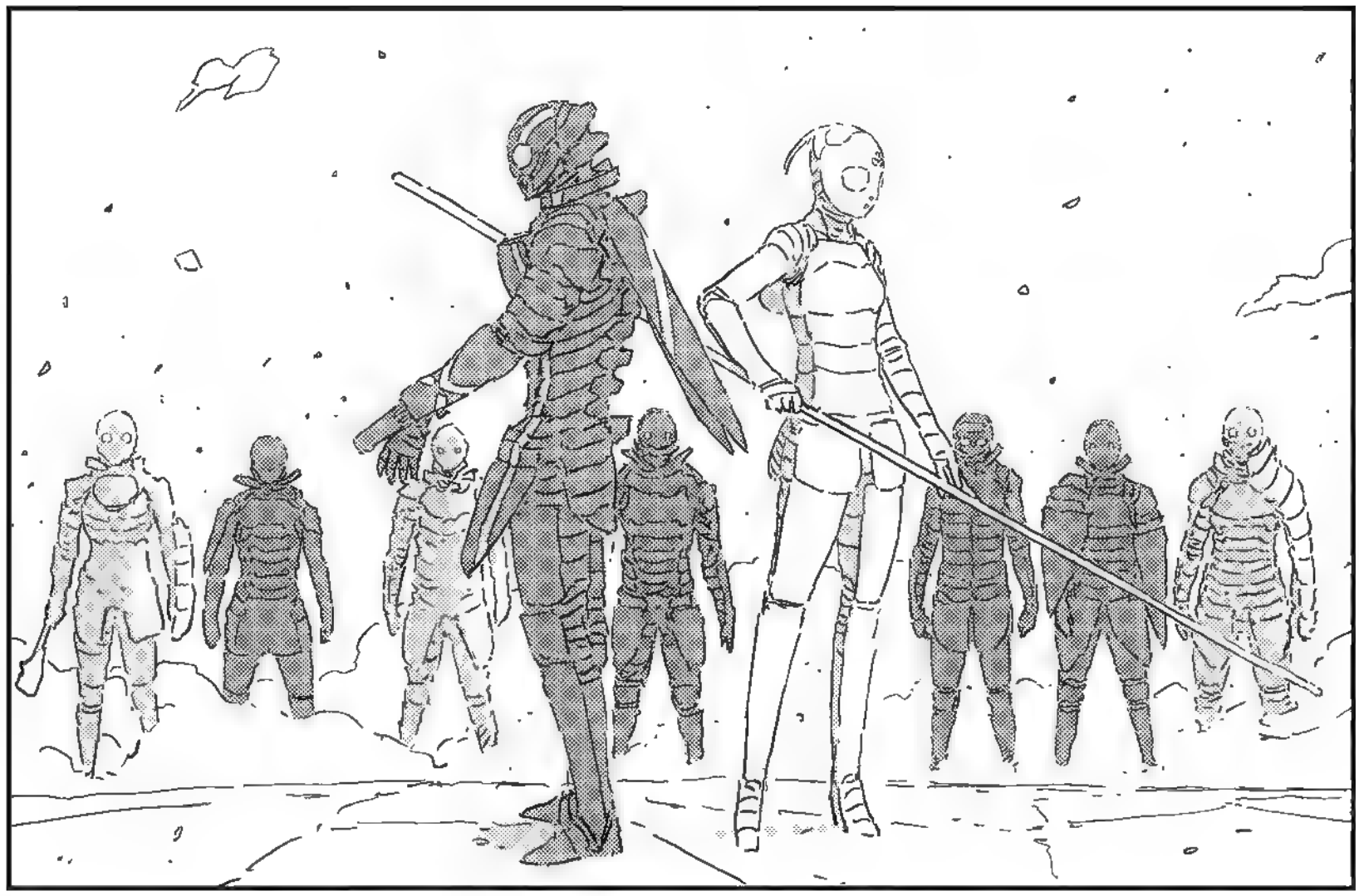

LET'S GO!
RIGHT.
VROOM

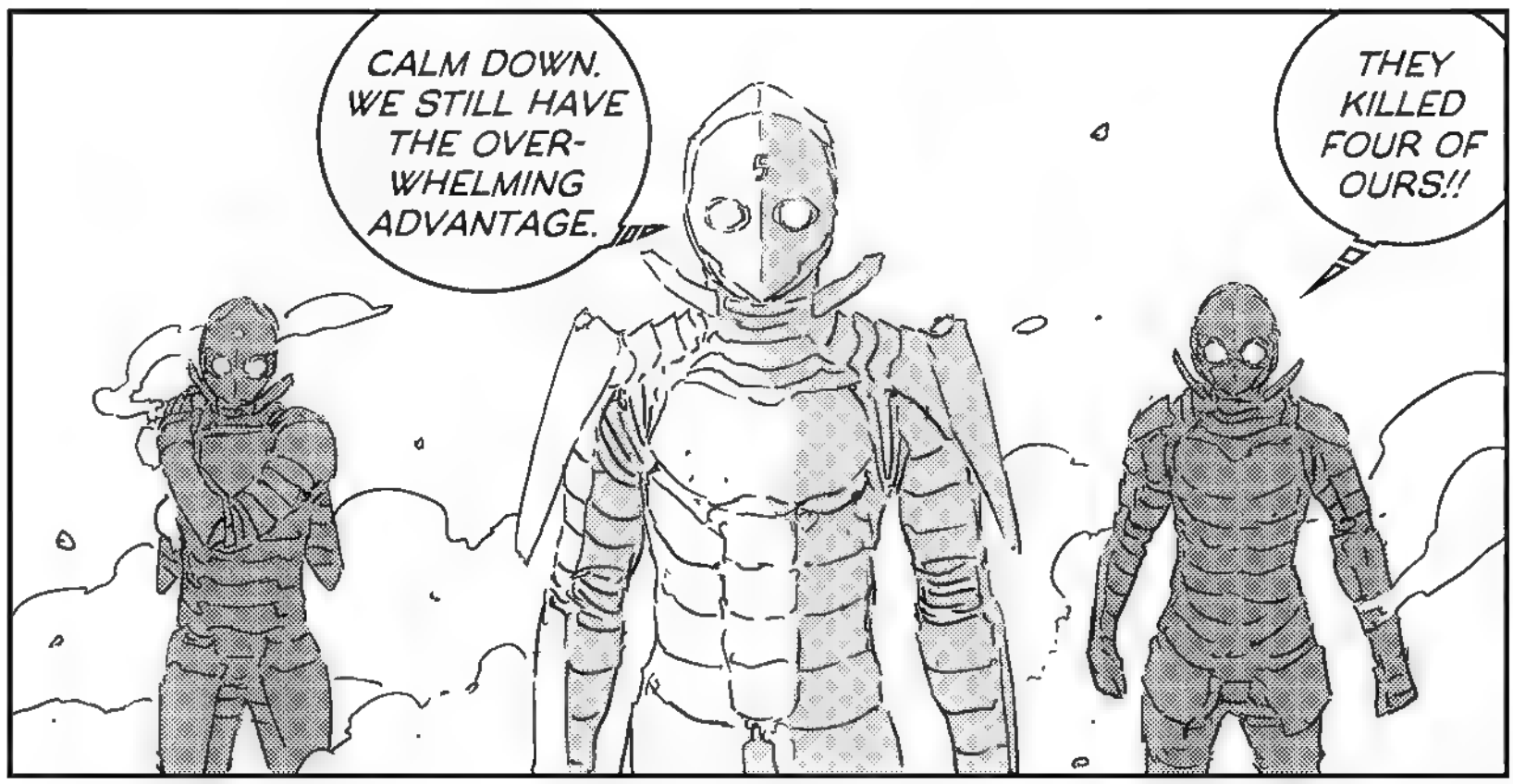
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO SEE THAT THE OPERATION IS A CLEAR SUCCESS.
GLORY ISN'T A THING YOU TRY TO WIN IN A RUSH.

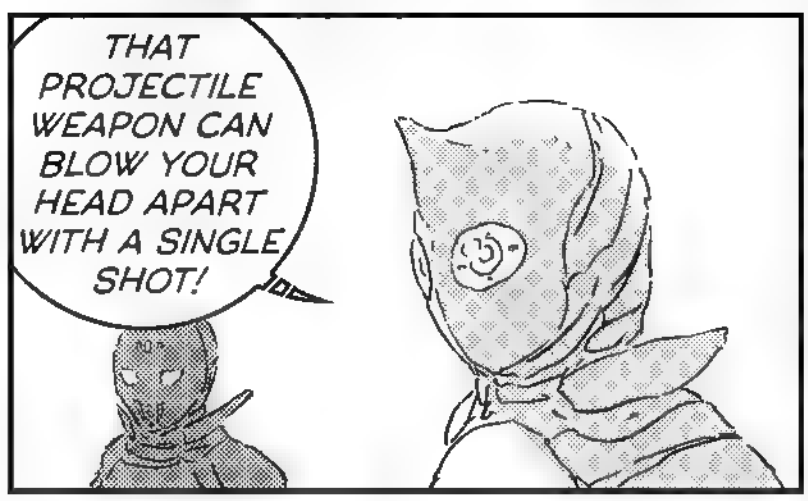

WE'LL GIVE CHASE!
NOSHIYO! THE ONE WITH THE KIDS FLED UNDER-GROUND.
BUT THEY'LL GET THE RED GUY WITHOUT US!

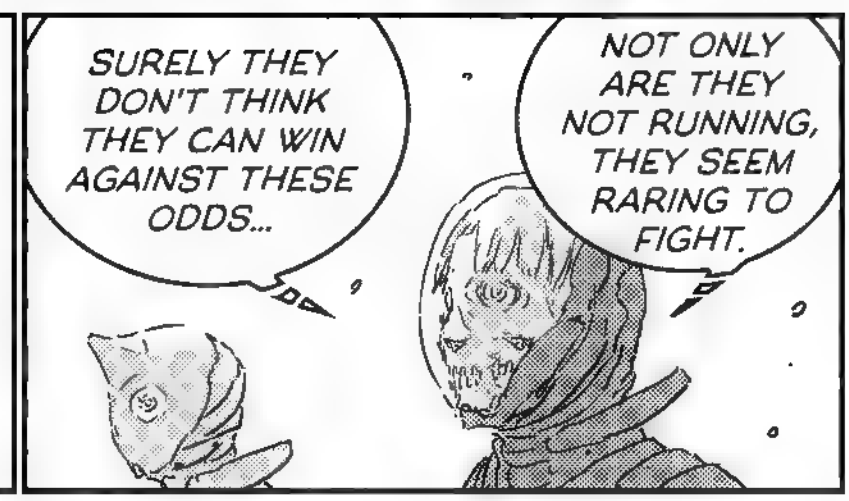

VWOOM
VWOOM
VWOOM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

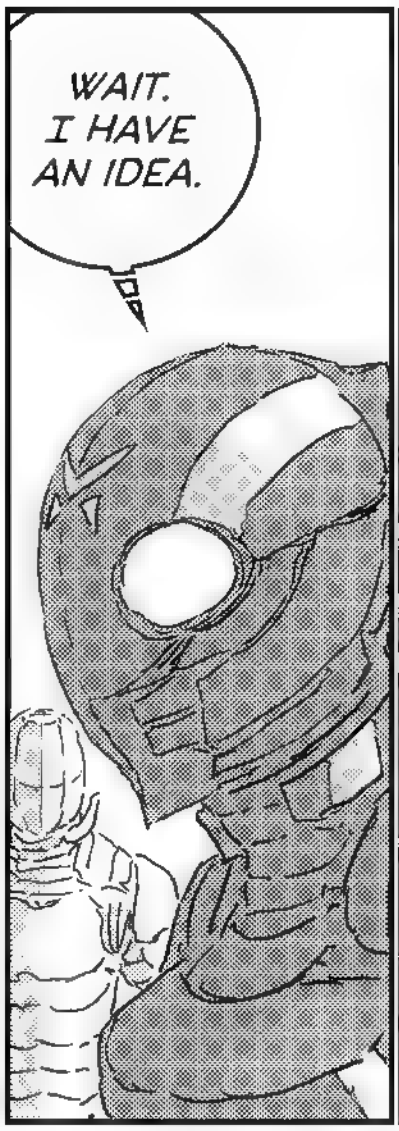





CALM DOWN. WE STILL HAVE THE OVER-WHELMING ADVANTAGE.
THEY KILLED FOUR OF OURS!!


THAT PROJECTILE WEAPON CAN BLOW YOUR HEAD APART WITH A SINGLE SHOT!

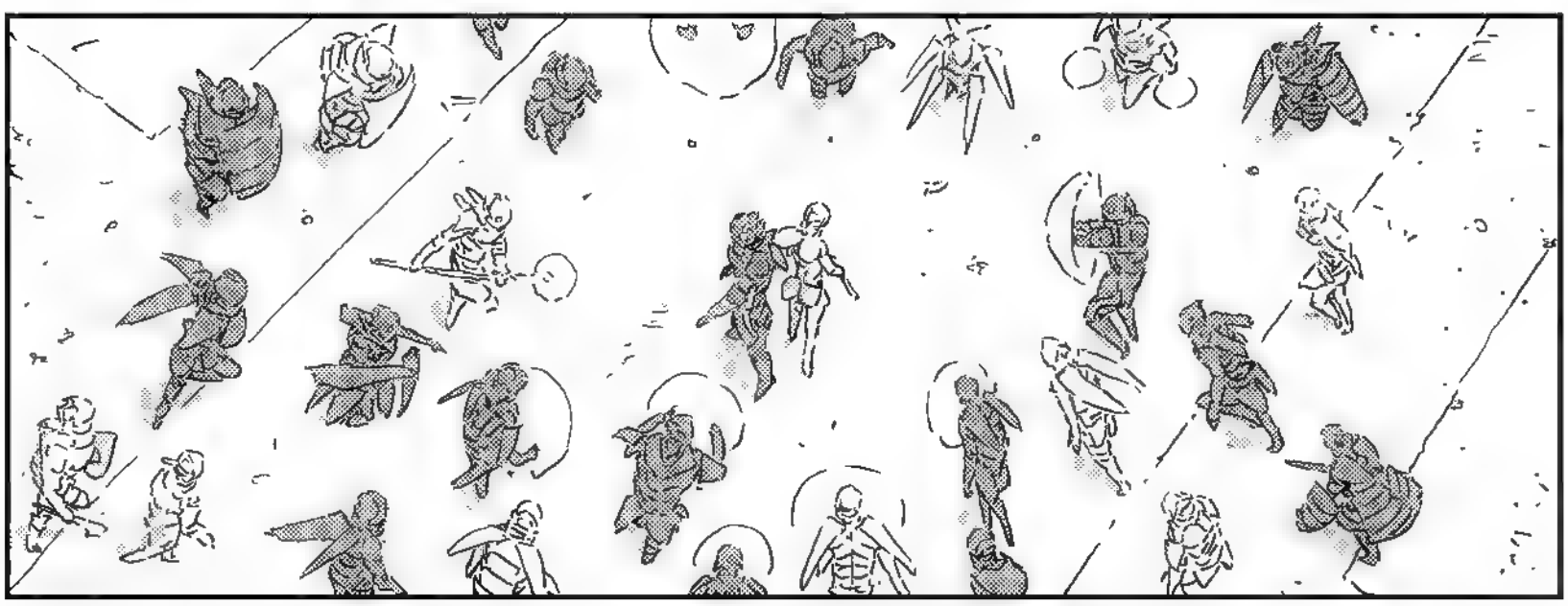

SURELY THEY DON'T THINK THEY CAN WIN AGAINST THESE ODDS...
NOT ONLY ARE THEY NOT RUNNING, THEY SEEM RARING TO FIGHT.


WAIT. I HAVE AN IDEA.

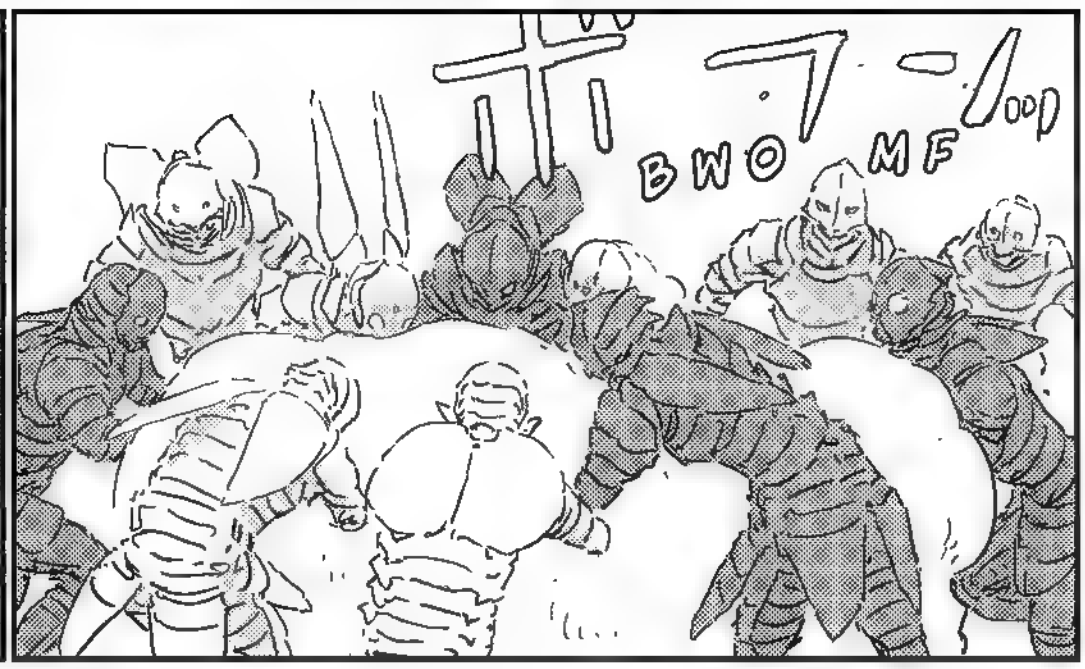
WE COULD USE ALL OUR HAIGHS PARTICLES TO STOP THEM AND THEN GET UNDER-GROUND!

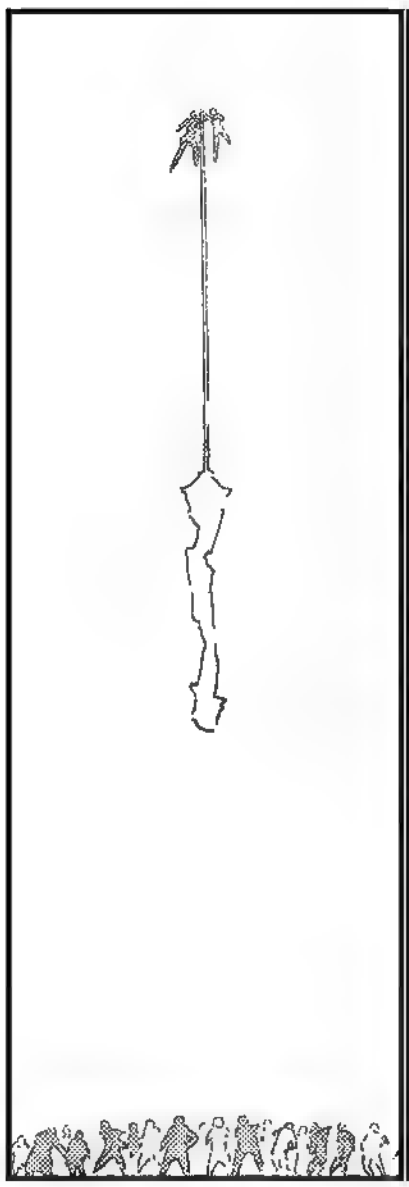
FOLLOW ME!

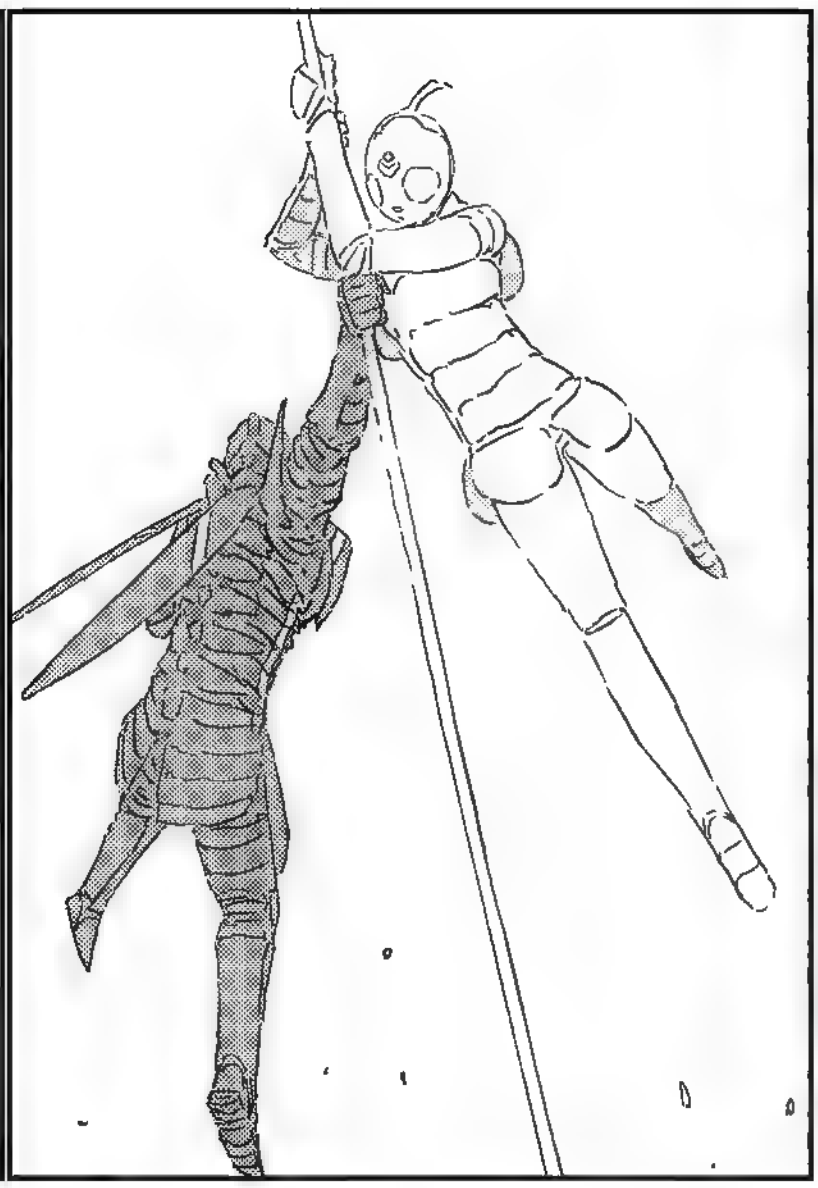
PLUS, AT THIS DISTANCE, THE MOST HE COULD GET OFF IS ONE SHOT.
IF THE ENTRY ANGLE IS OFF, IT WON'T PENE-TRATE.



WAIT! STOP!
WE'VE GOT THEM!
YES!


BWO
MF
OOP

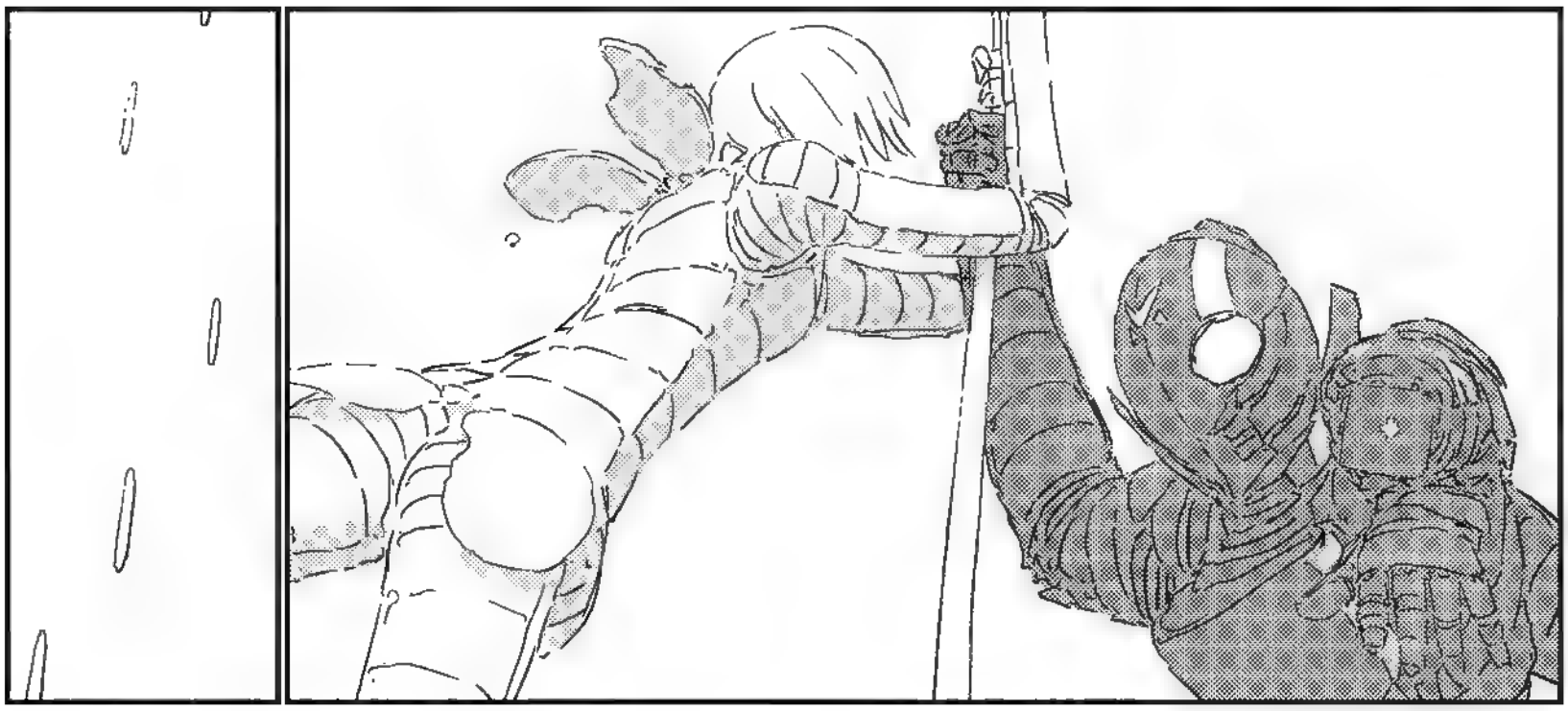


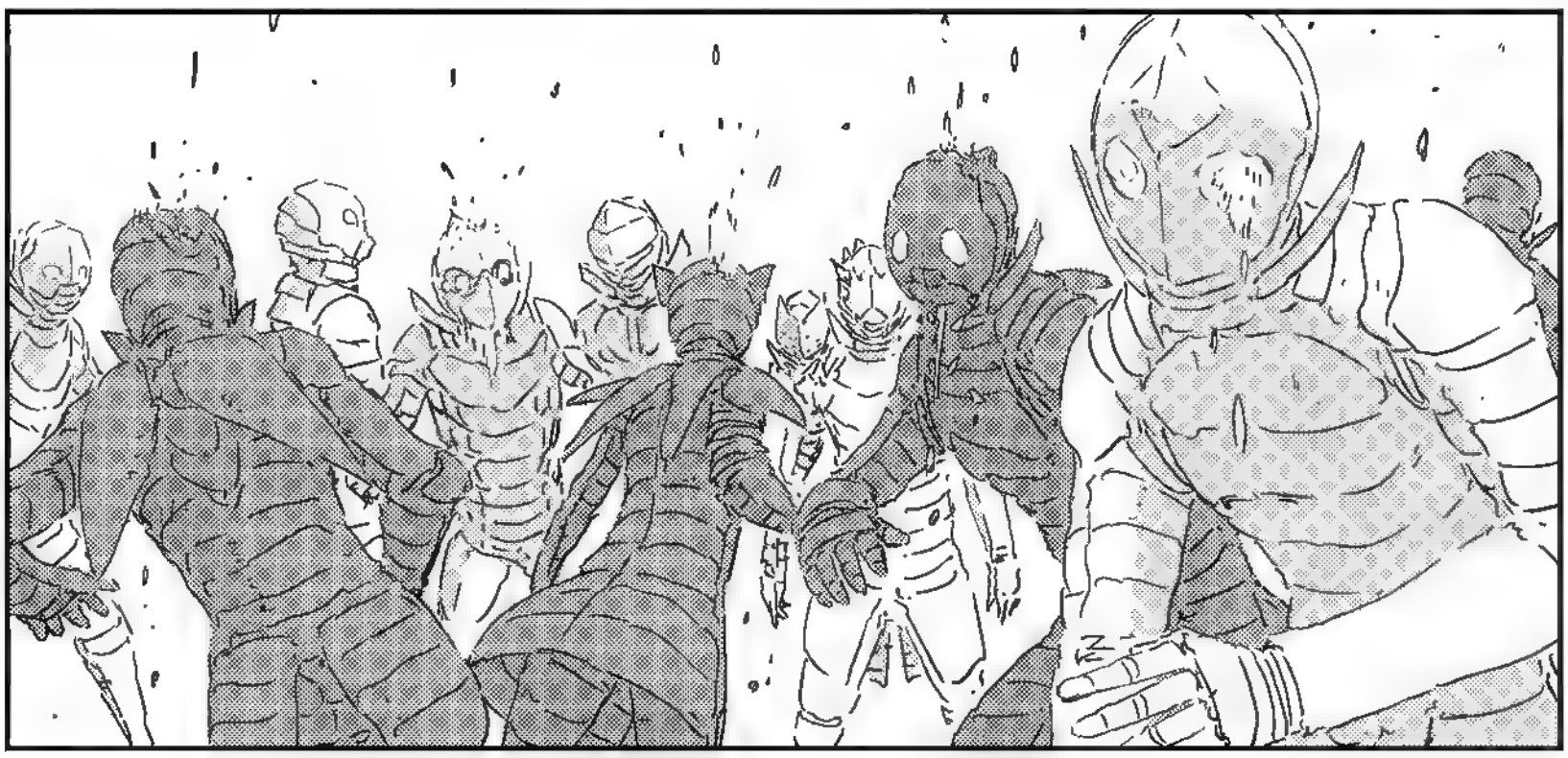


LOOK UP!!

BZA
AATCH

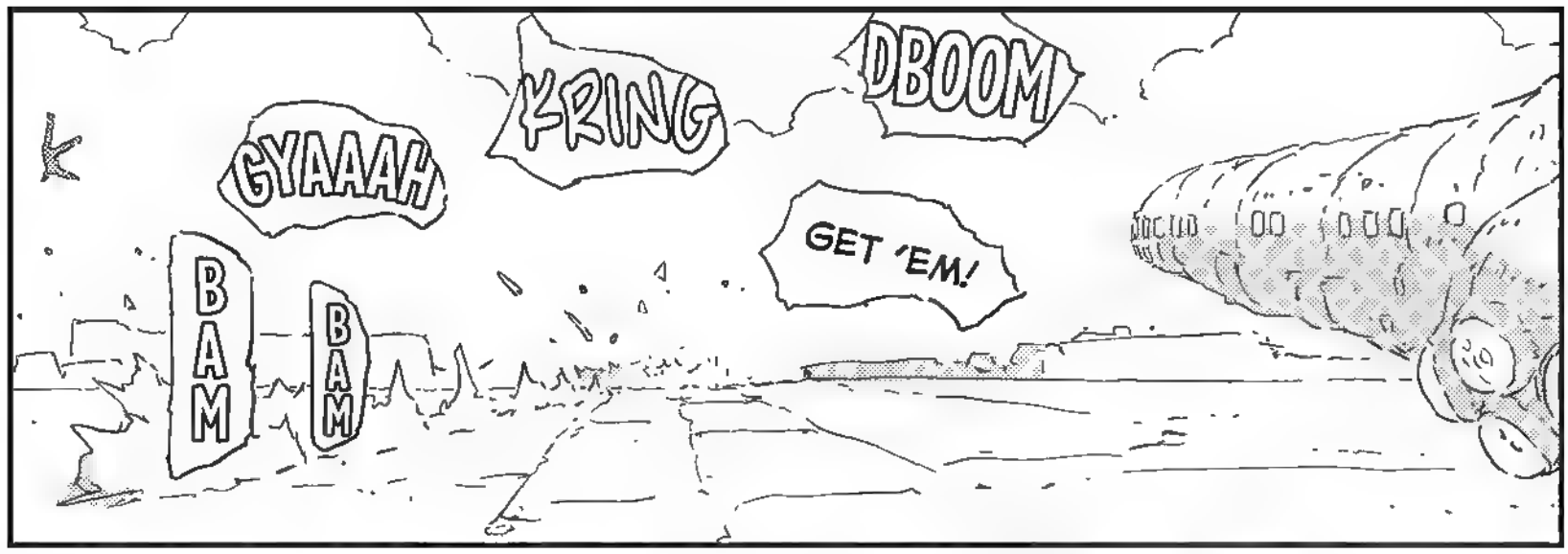
I CAN'T MOVE !!
AH!
GAH !!

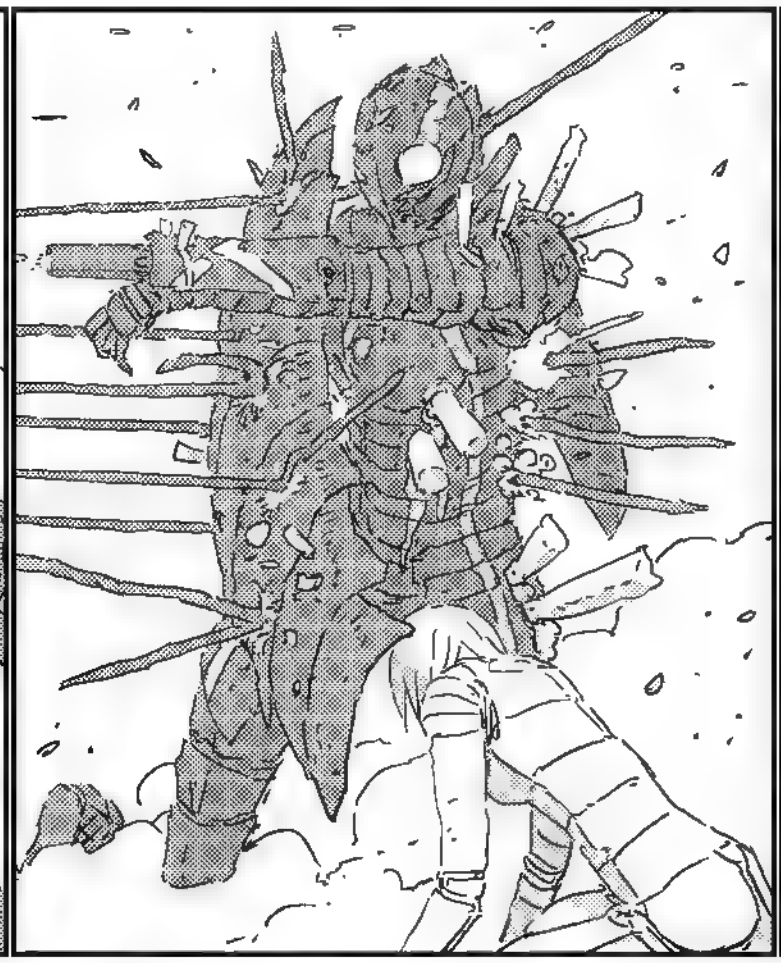




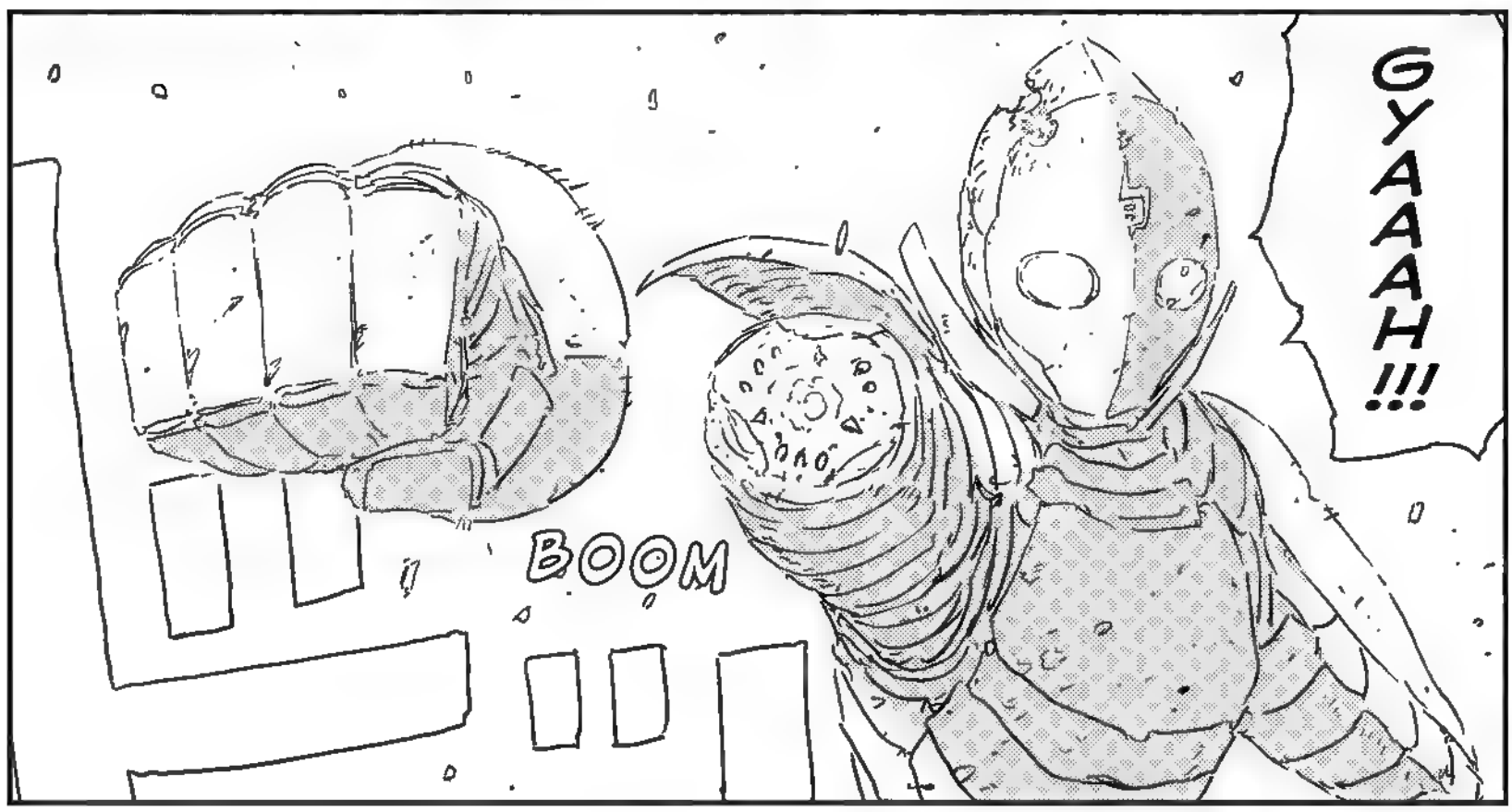
BKAM

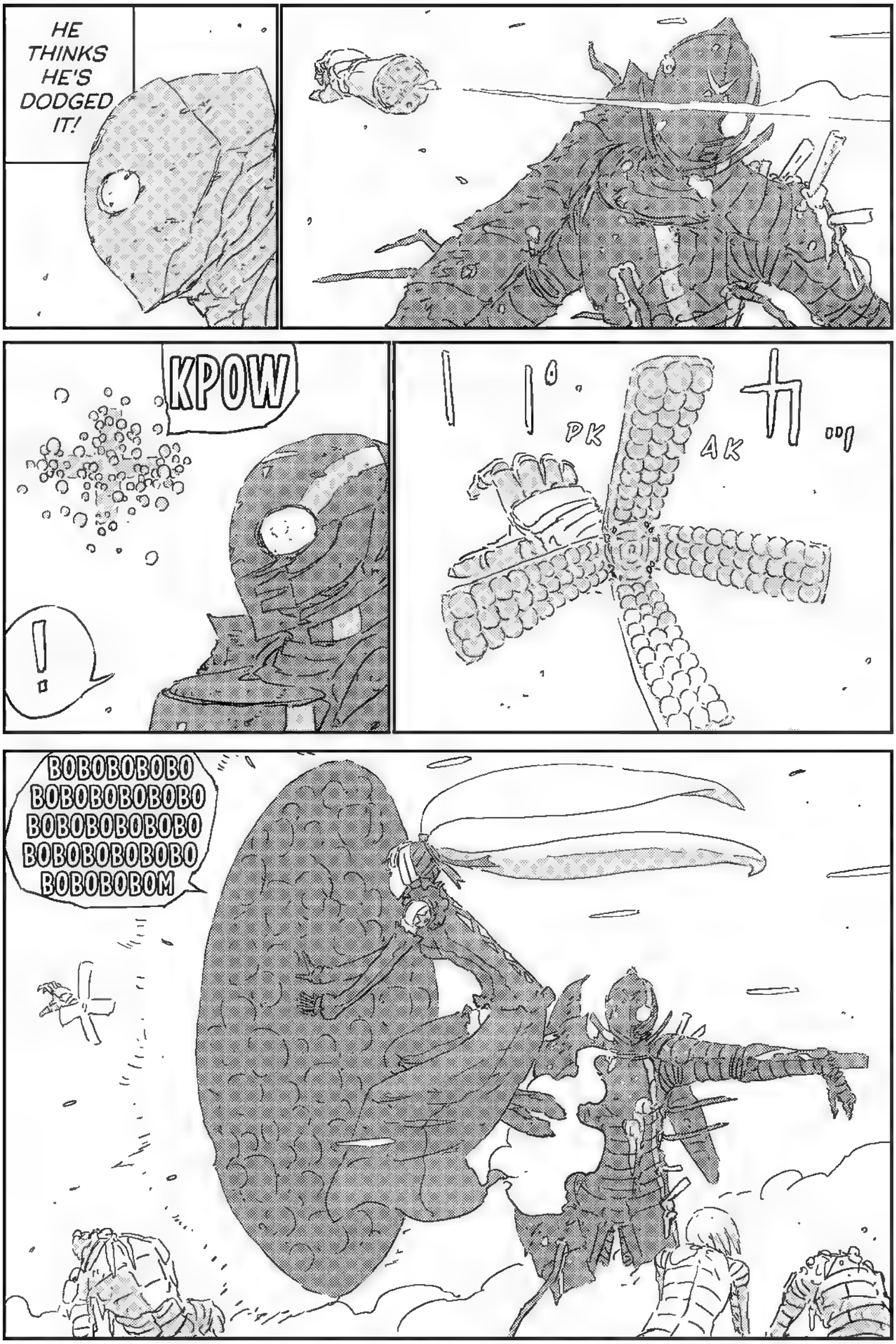
GCH
ANK

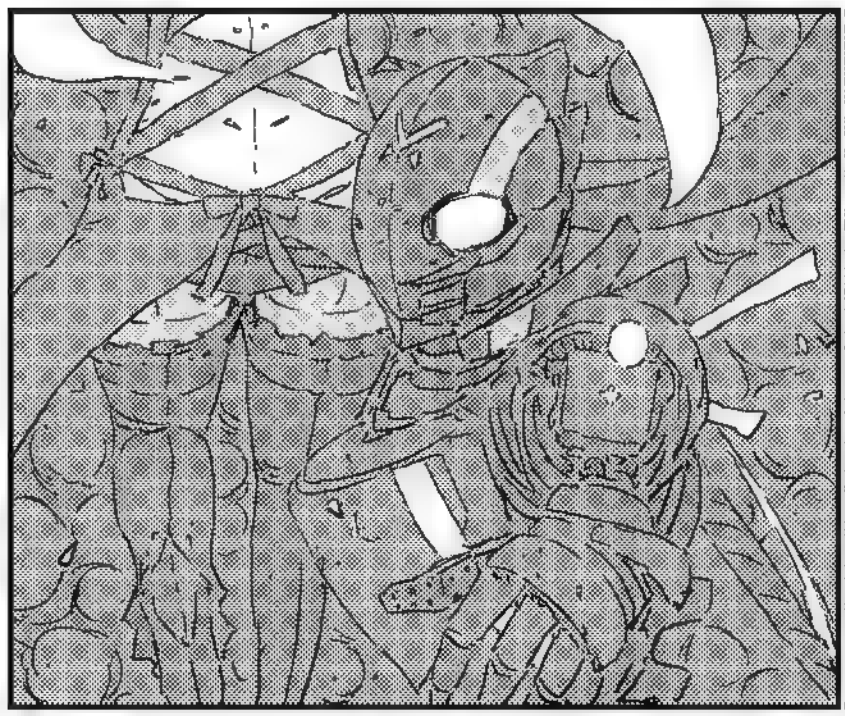

GYAAAH
KRING
DBOOM
BAM
BAM
GET 'EM!

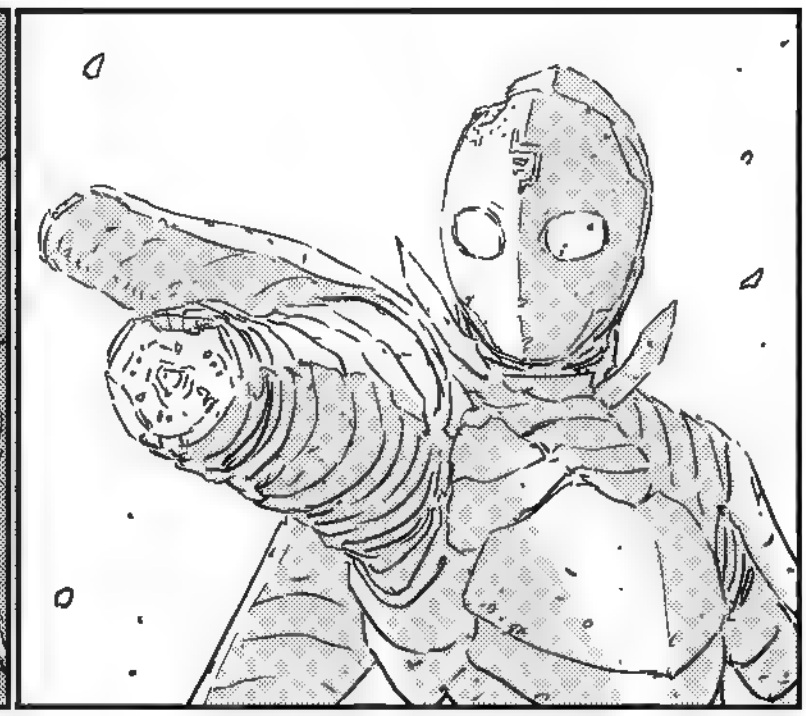


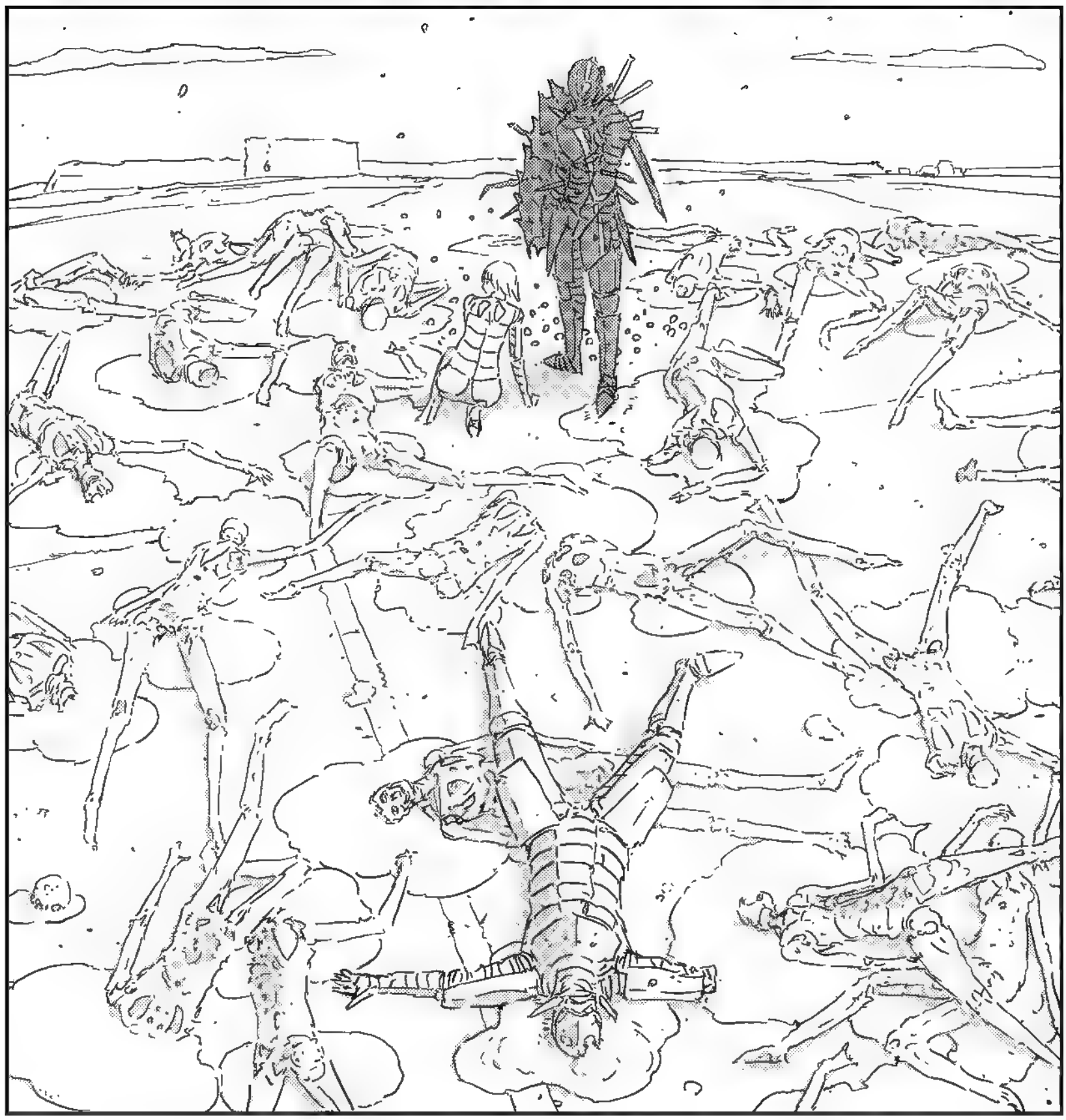
AWGH !
LOOK OUT! HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE YOU'RE WEAKEST!
LIFE SIGNS ON OUR SIDE ARE BLINK-ING OUT...

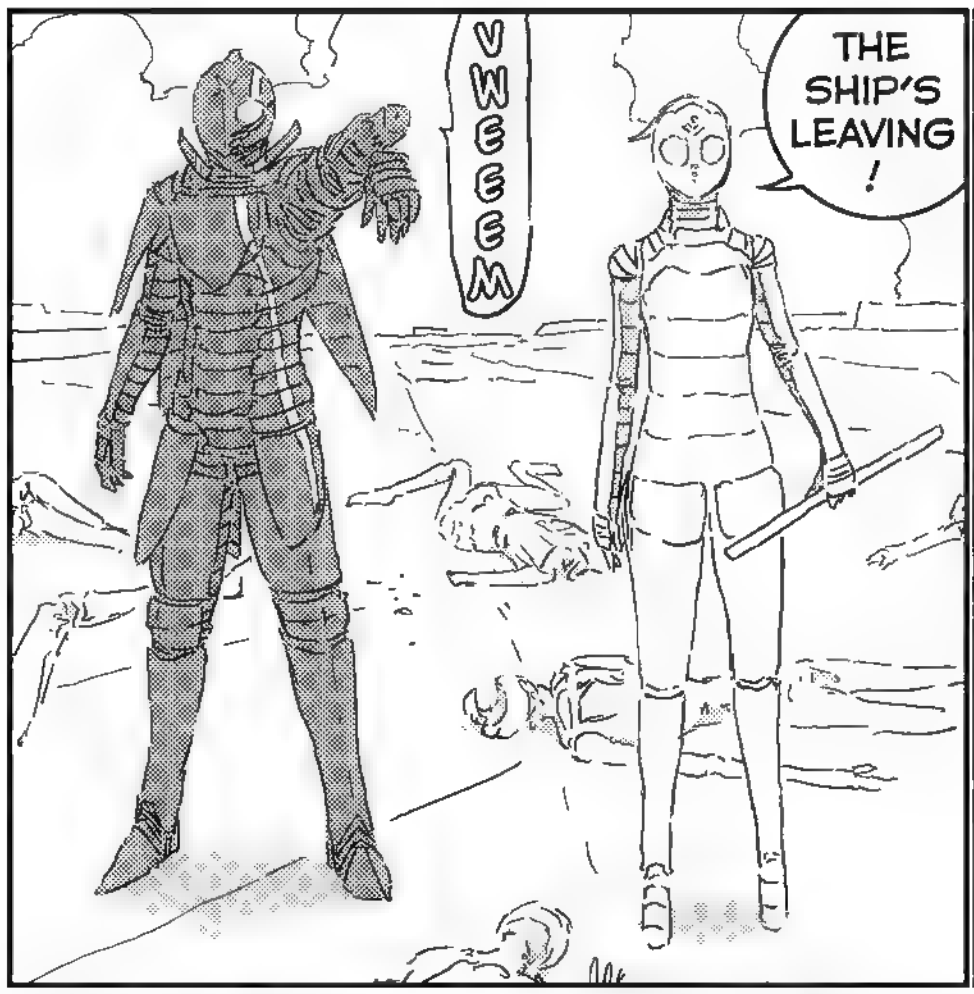

GYAAAH!!!
BOOM

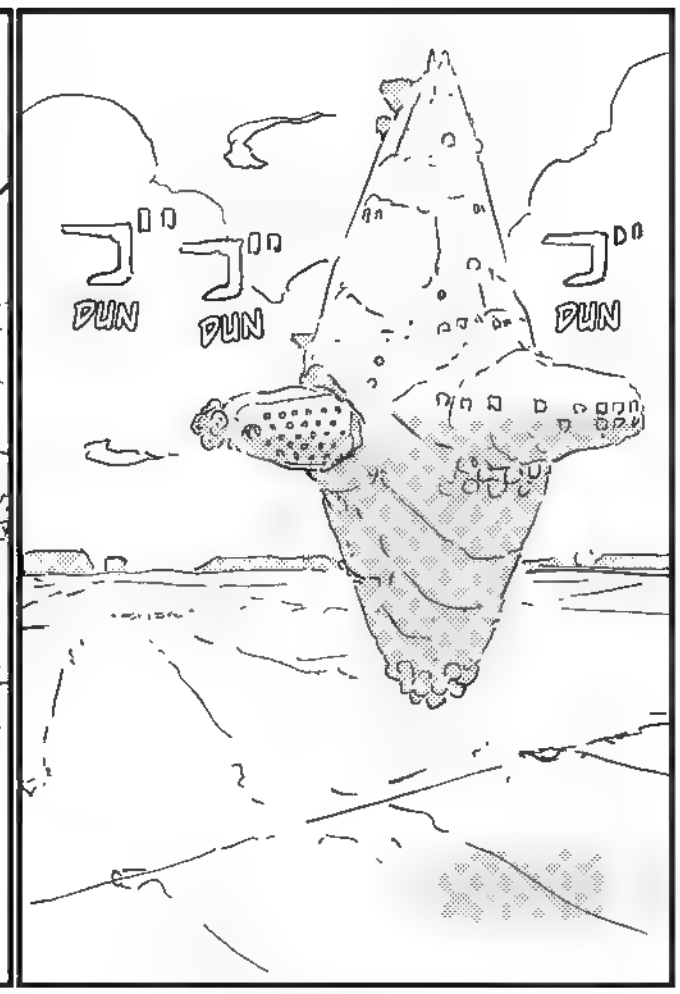

HE THINKS HE'S DODGED IT!
KPOW
!
PK
AK
ВОВОВОВОВО ВОВОВОВОВОВО ВОВОВОВОВОВО ВОВОВОВОВОВО ВОВОВОВОМ

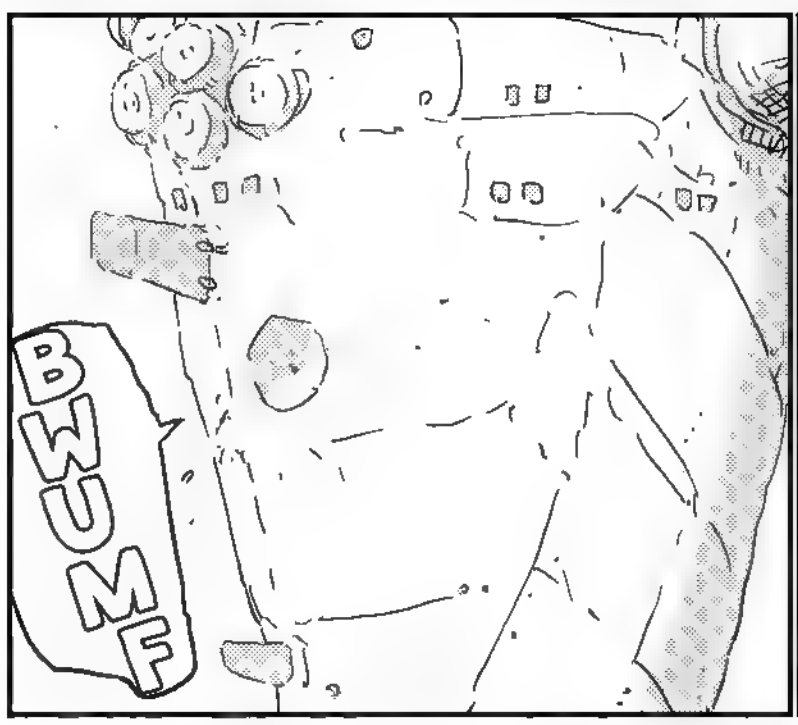


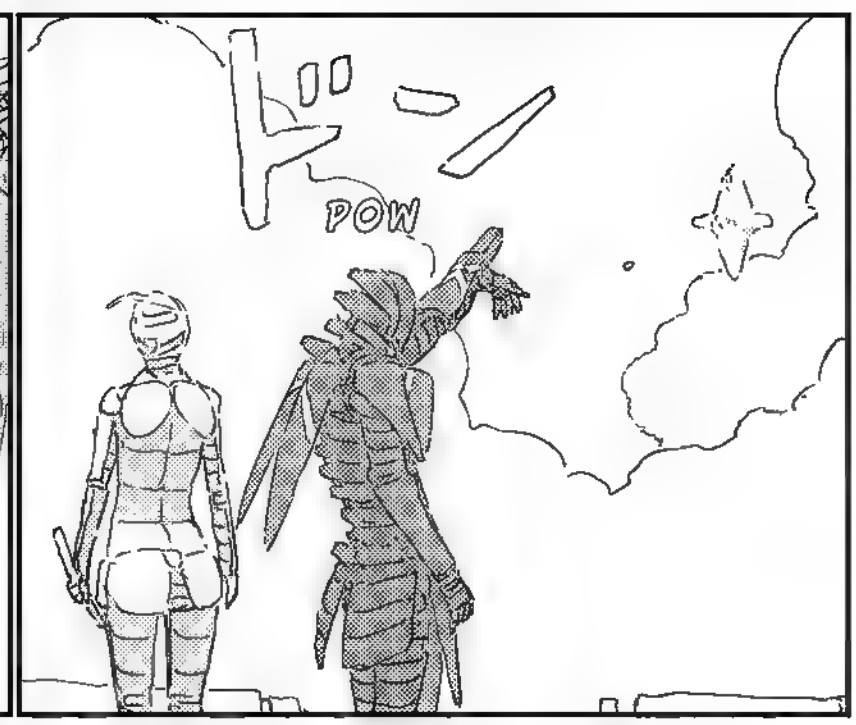


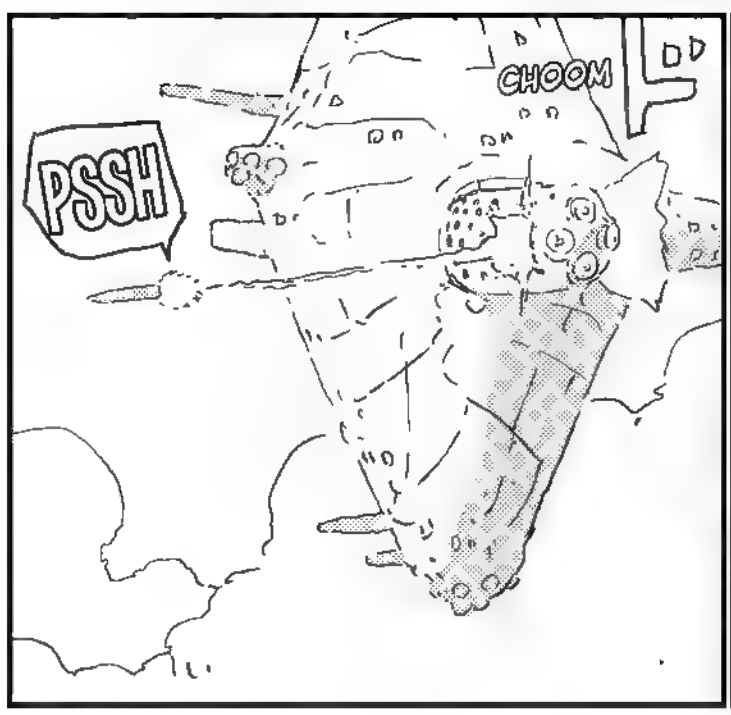



VWEEEM
THE SHIP'S LEAVING!

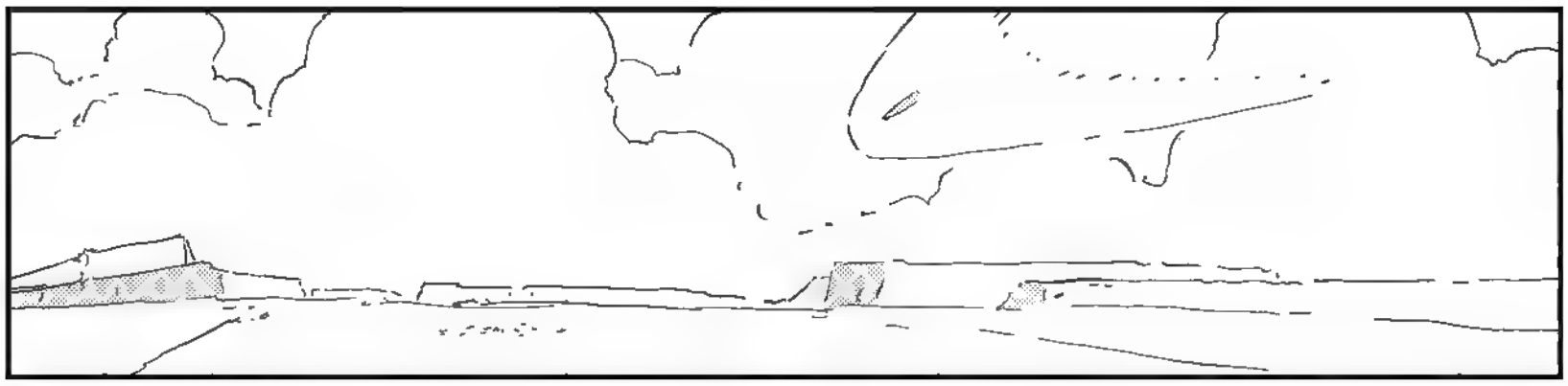

DUN
DUN
DUN

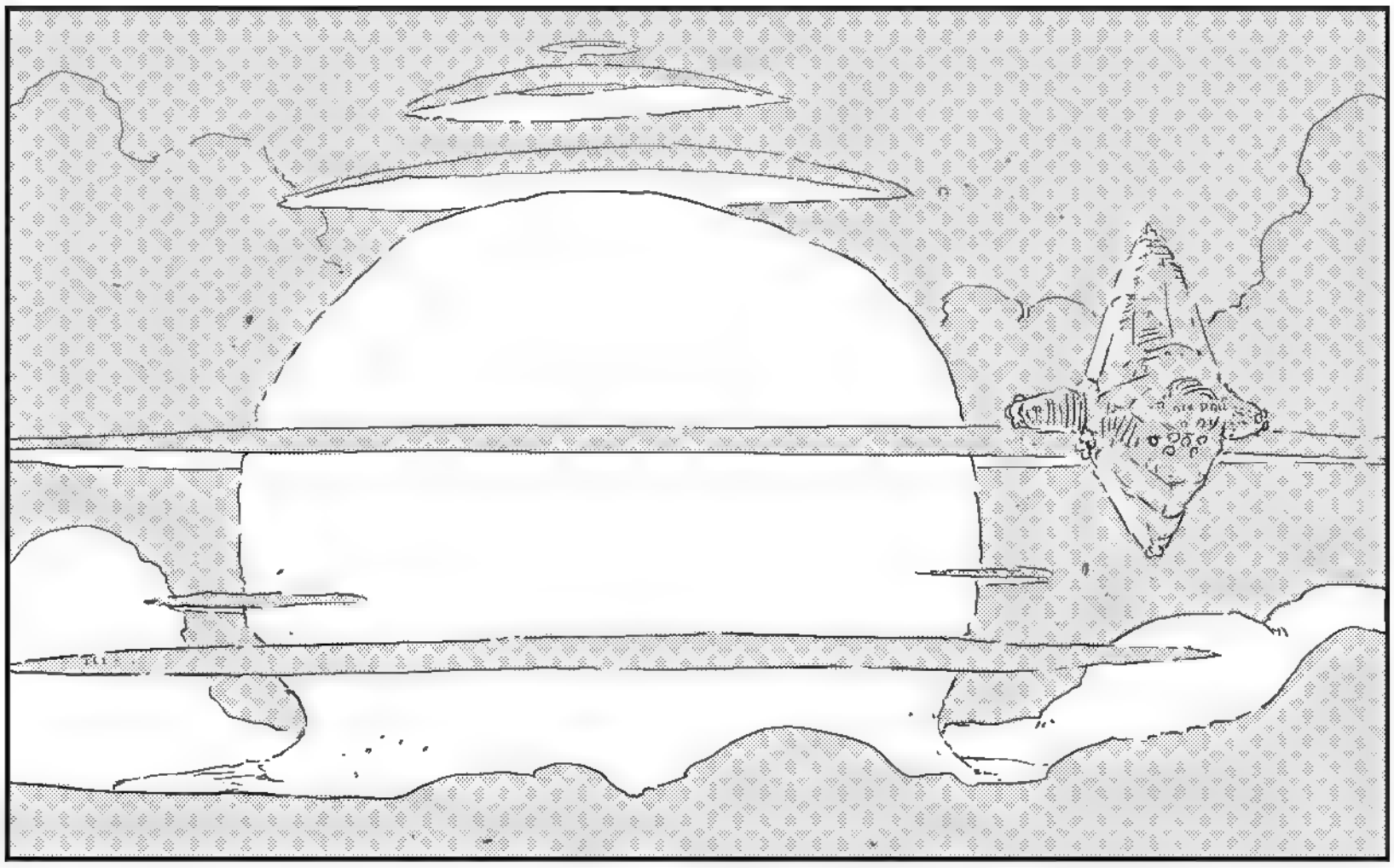

BWUMF


POW


PSSH
CHOOM

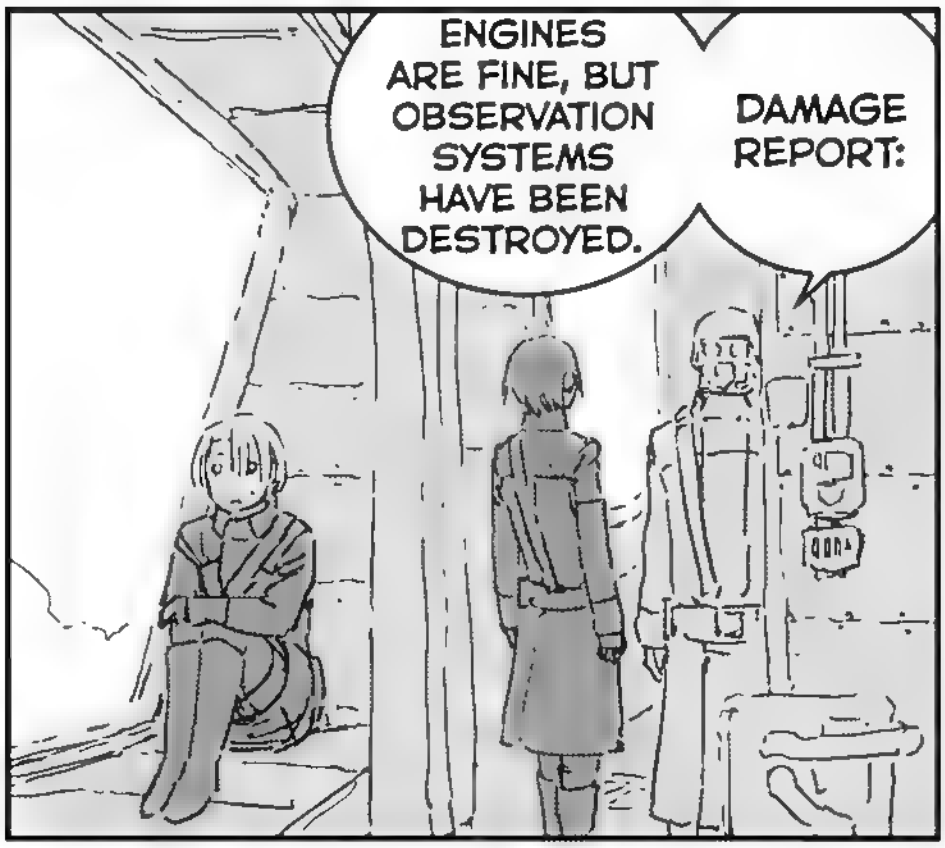
JUST DO IT!
BUT FIREBALL MISSILES DON'T WORK ON REGULAR FRAMES!
FIRE FIREBALL MISSILE!
WE'VE BEEN HIT!! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!
REEEET
KTRR
REEEET
KTRR

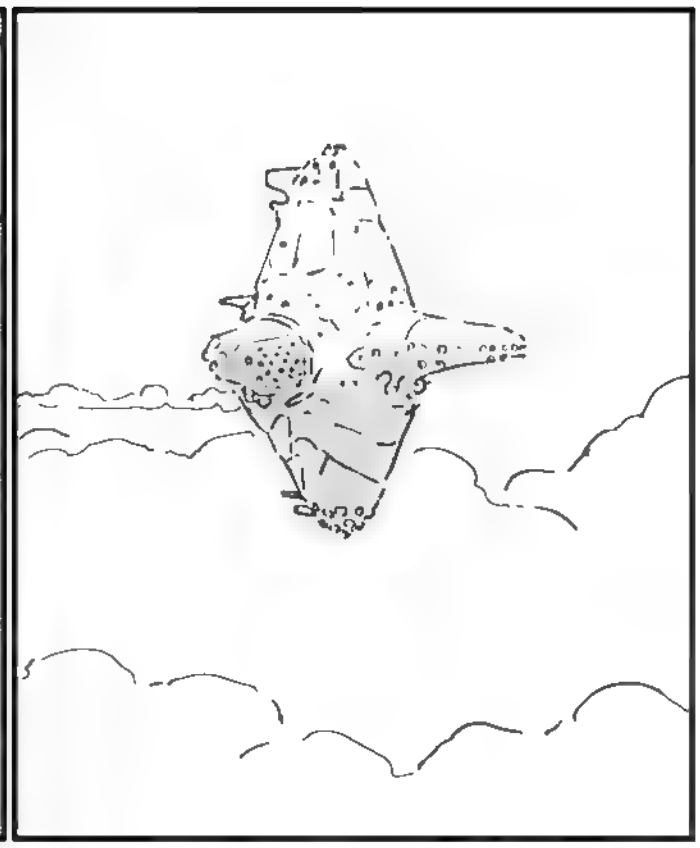


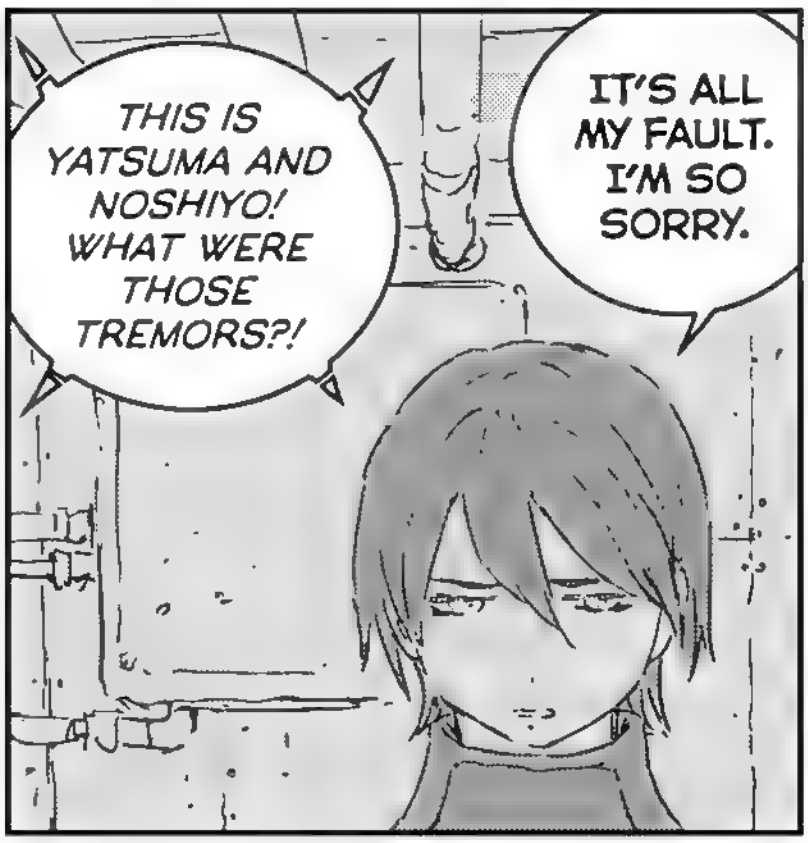


WASABU! WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

ズ
ズ
ズ
ZZZMMM


ENGINES ARE FINE, BUT OBSERVATION SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
DAMAGE REPORT:

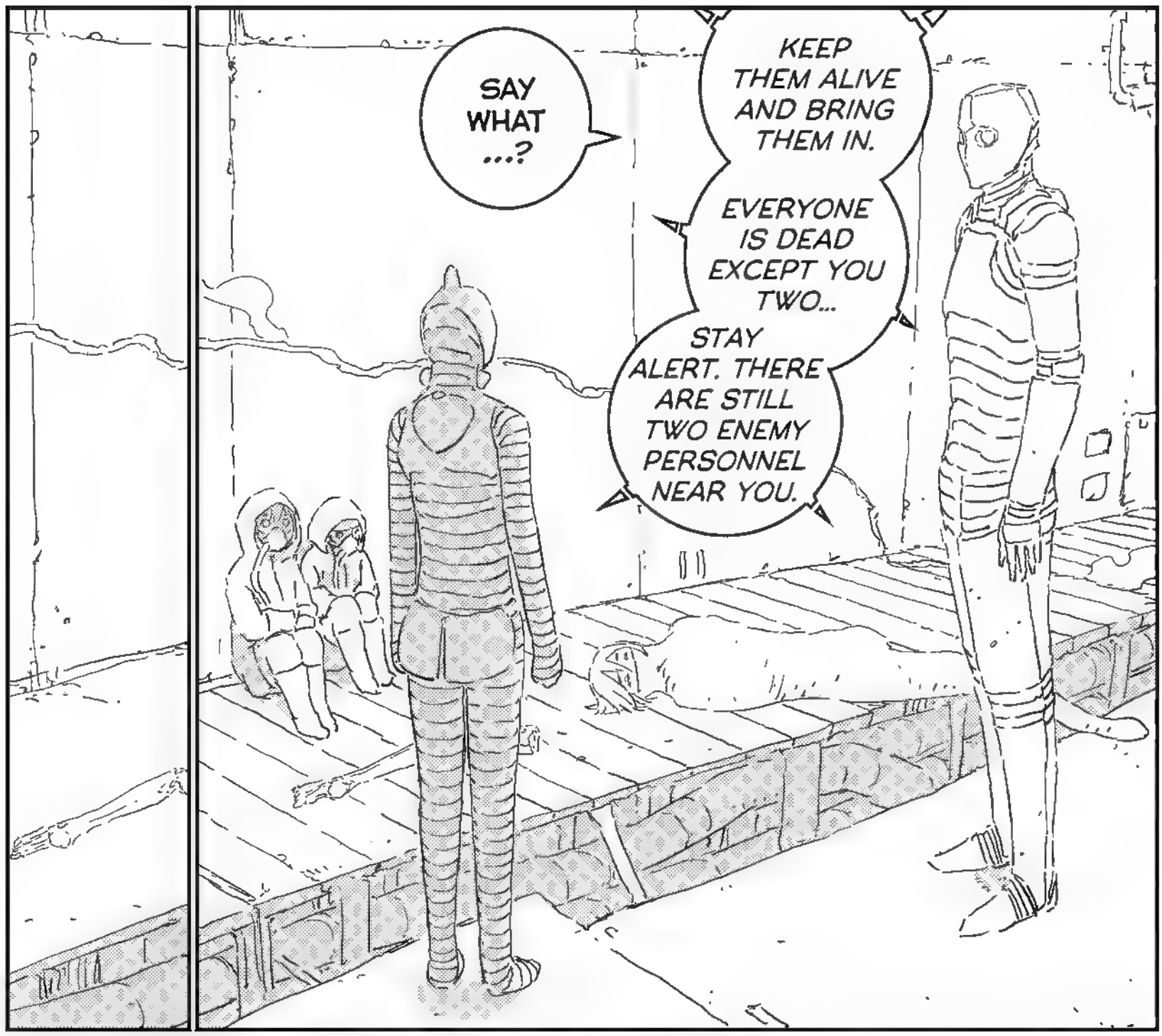


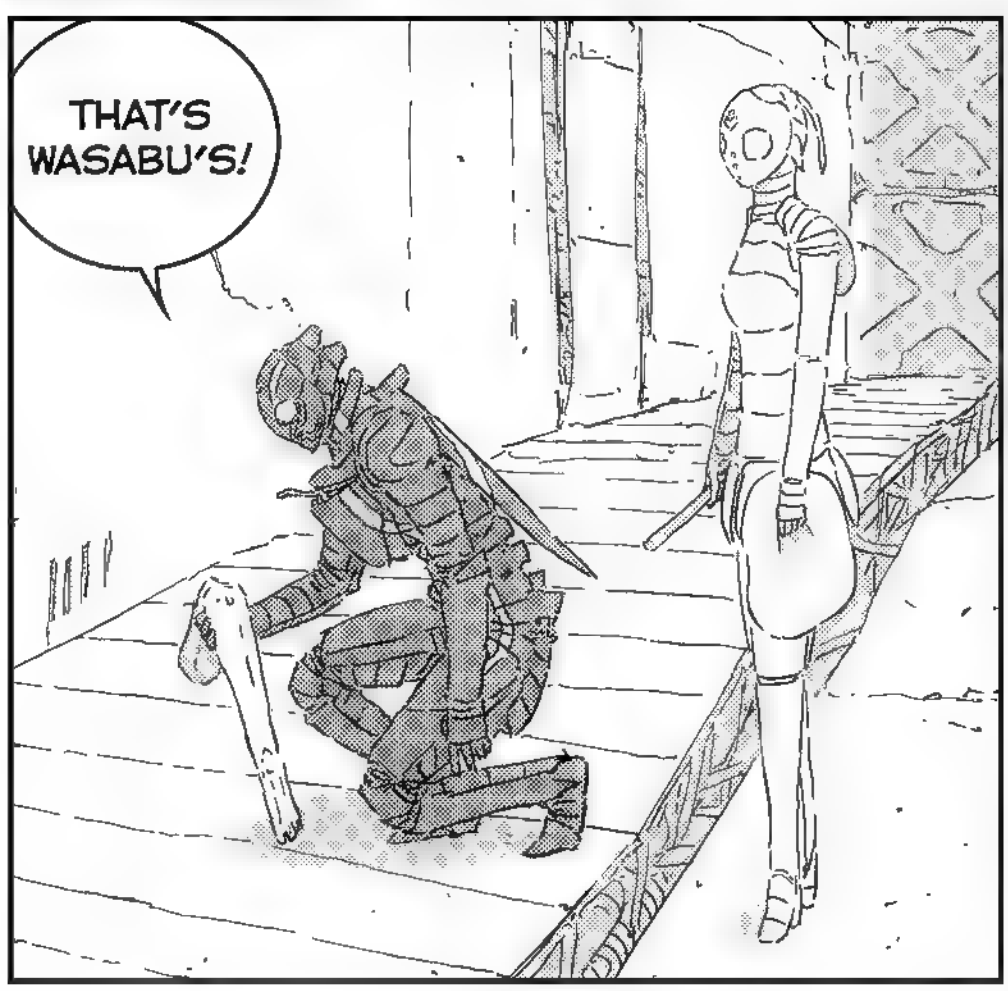

THIS IS YATSUMA AND NOSHIYO! WHAT WERE THOSE TREMORS?!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I'M SO SORRY.

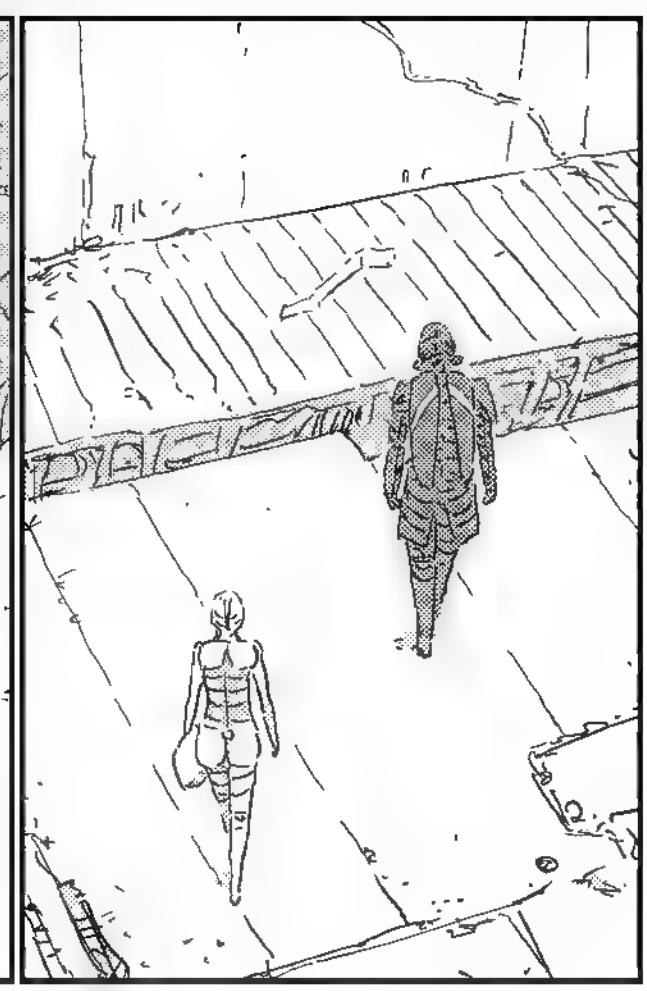
THEY'RE GOING TO TURN US INTO PILES OF PLACENTA!
WE'VE LOST TROOPS, AND OUR PRECIOUS SHIP IS RUINED.
NOT ONLY DID WE END UP EMPTY HANDED,

HE SAID YATSUMA, DIDN'T HE?! WELL DONE!

COME IN PLEASE, ANYONE!
WE'VE APPREHENDED AN ENEMY. WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?

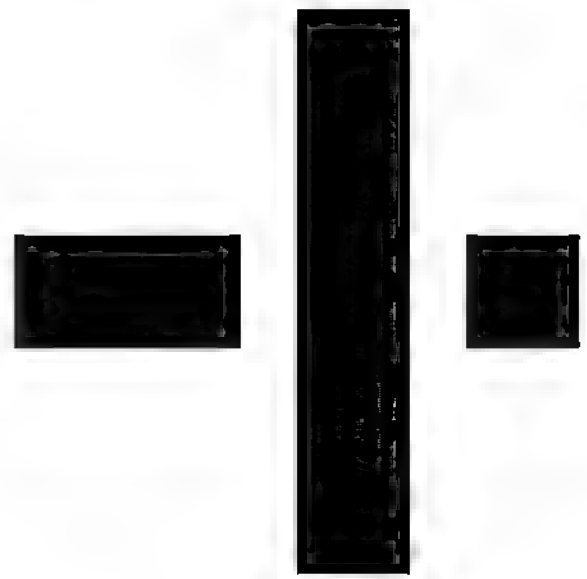




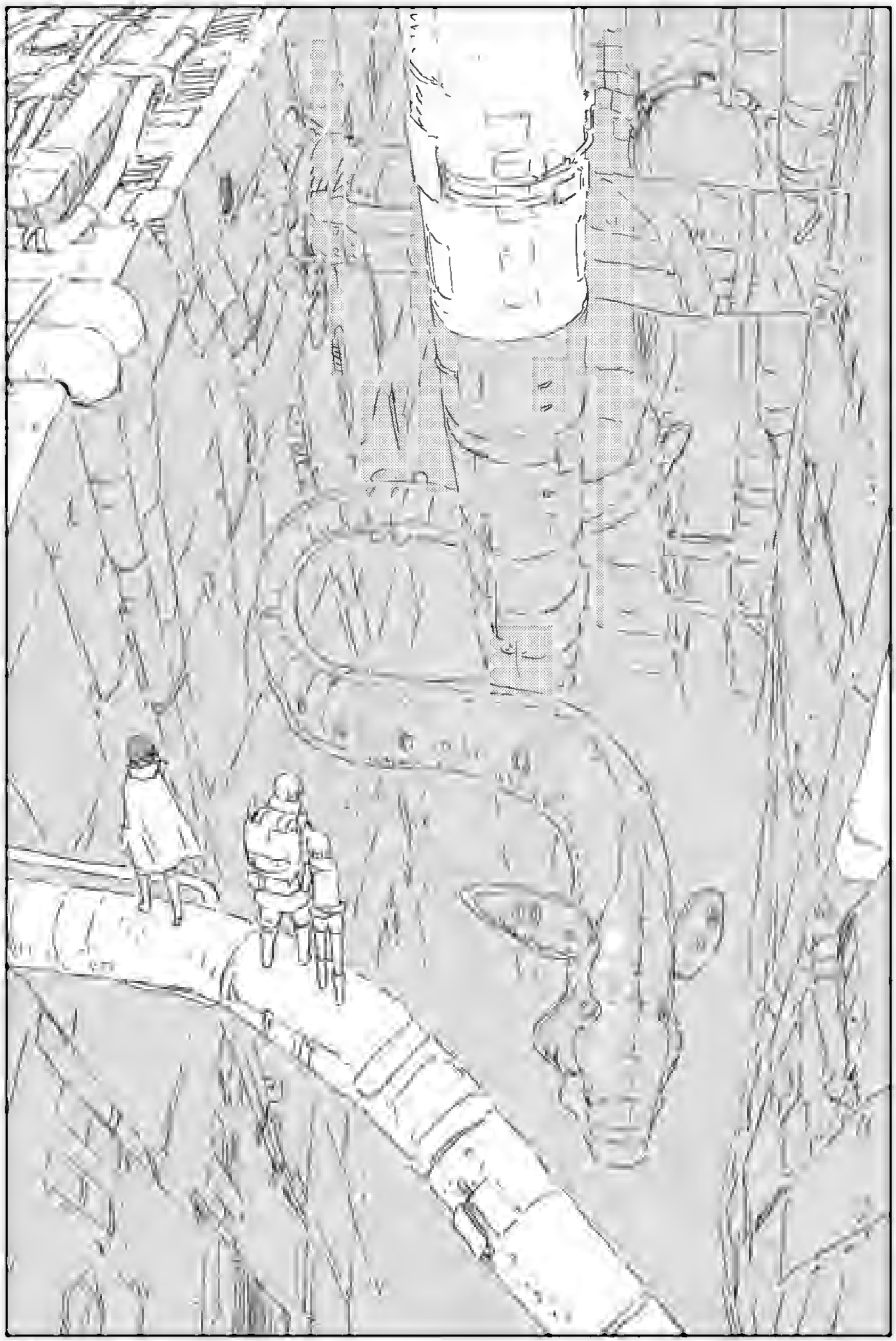


CHAPTER 47 END

APOSIMZ



CHAPTER 48

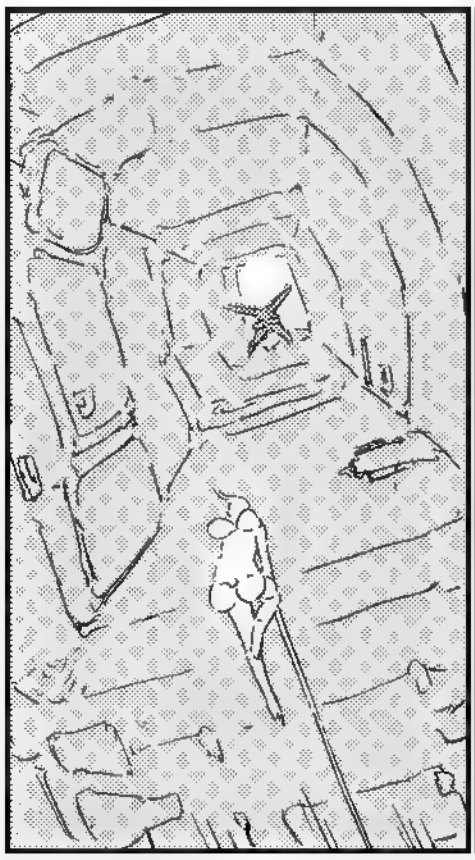


BANG
GRAK

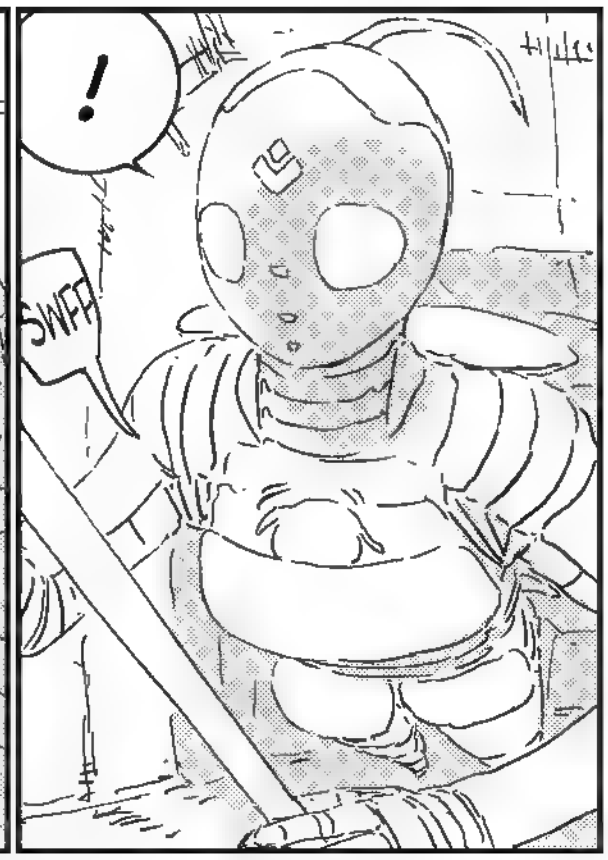
TOK

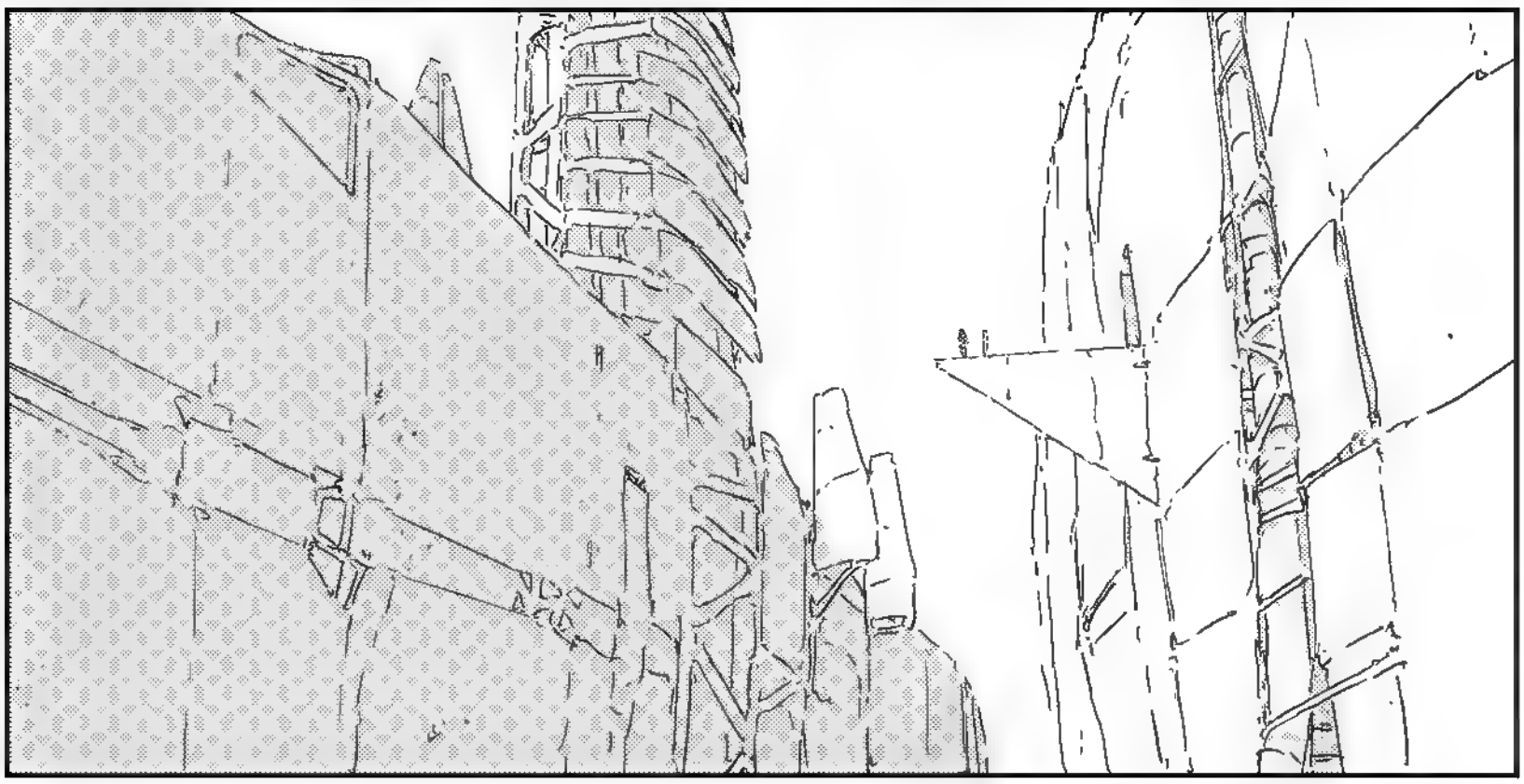
DETECTING SIGNS OF WASABU.

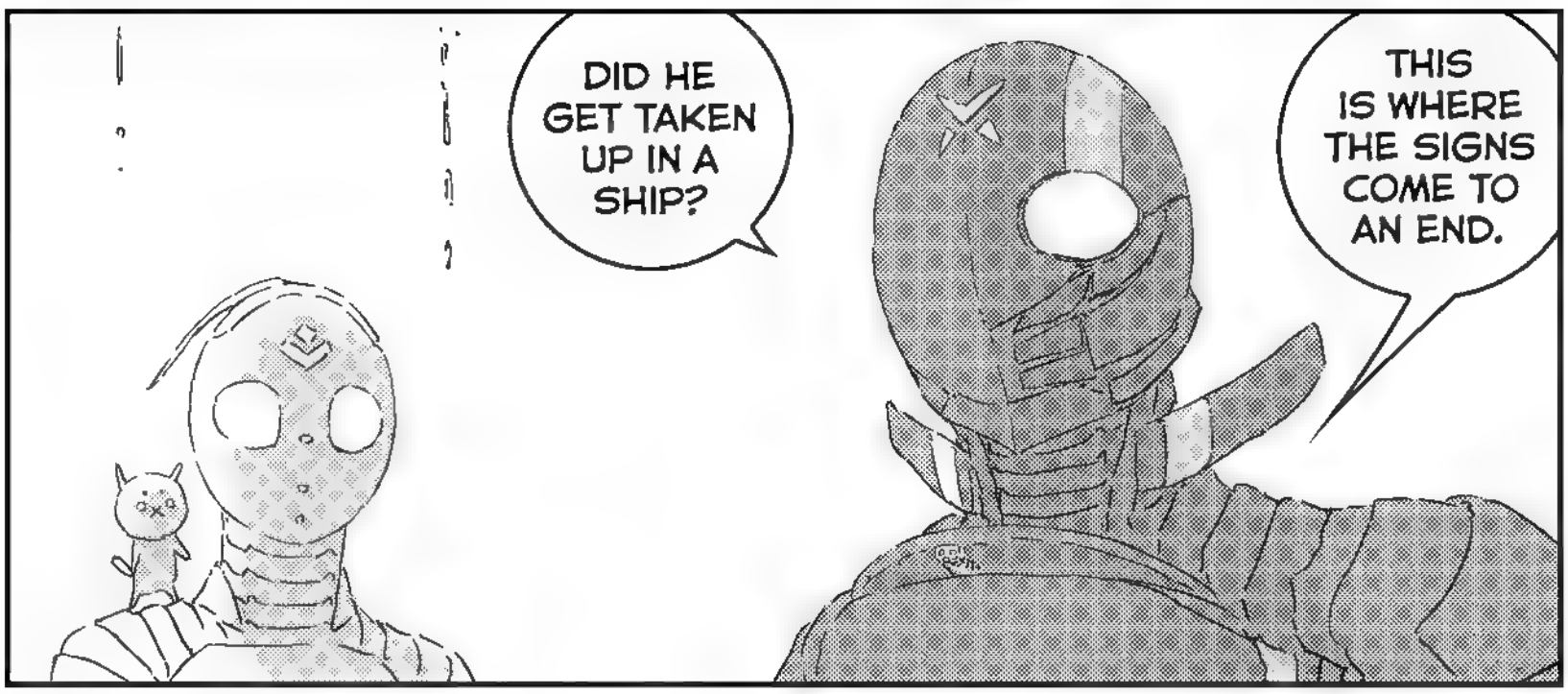
IT'S THIS WAY, NO MISTAKE.

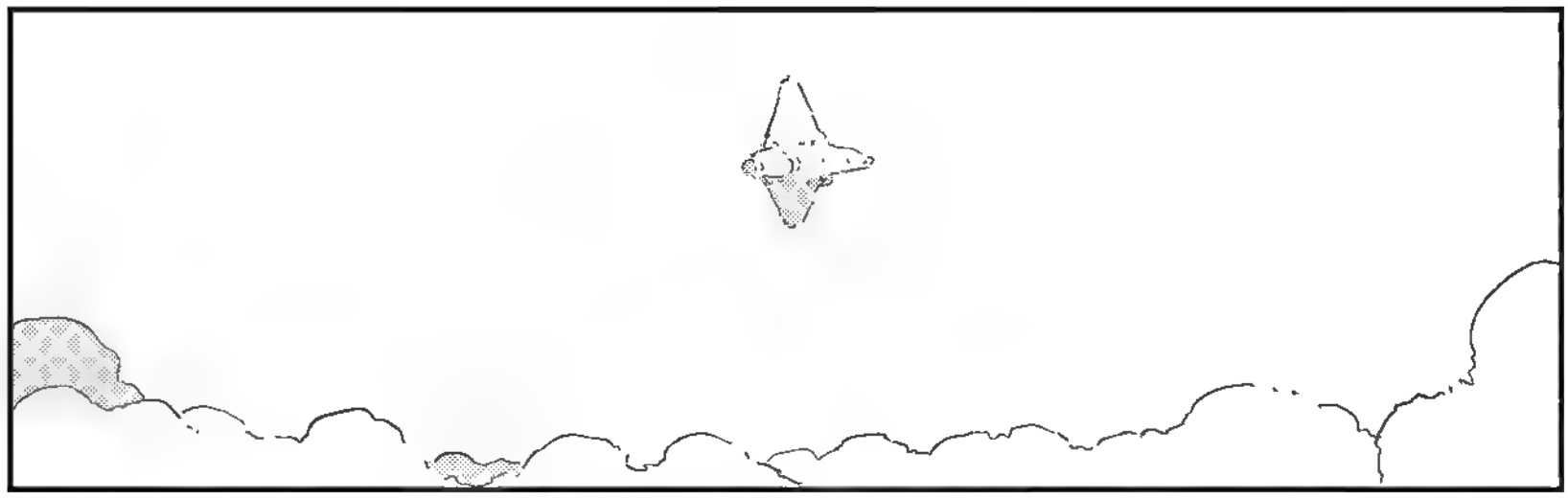


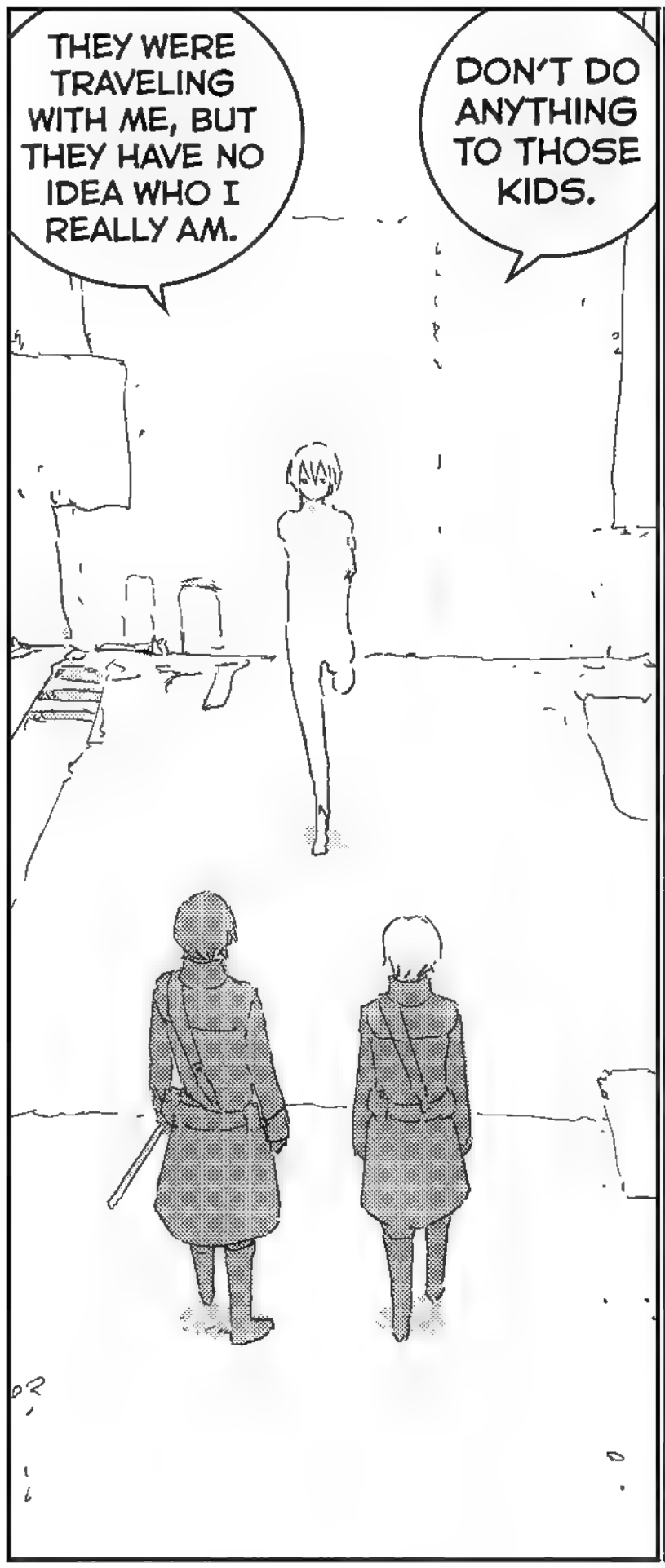
MUGU! SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE, HUH?


!
SWFA




DID HE GET TAKEN UP IN A SHIP?
THIS IS WHERE THE SIGNS COME TO AN END.

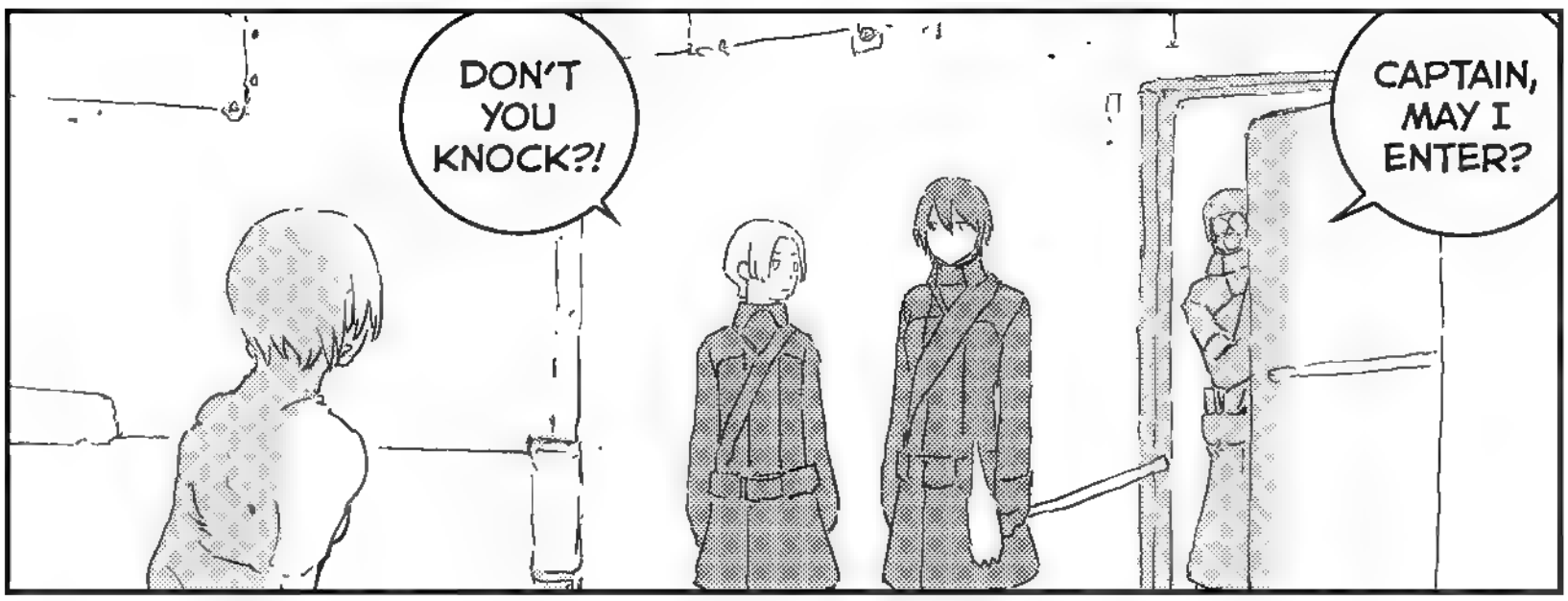


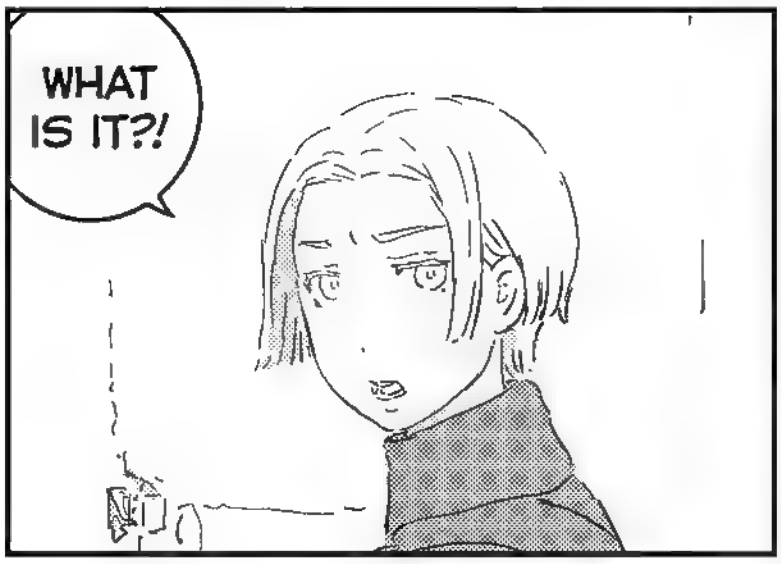

THEY WERE TRAVELING WITH ME, BUT THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHO I REALLY AM.
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO THOSE KIDS.

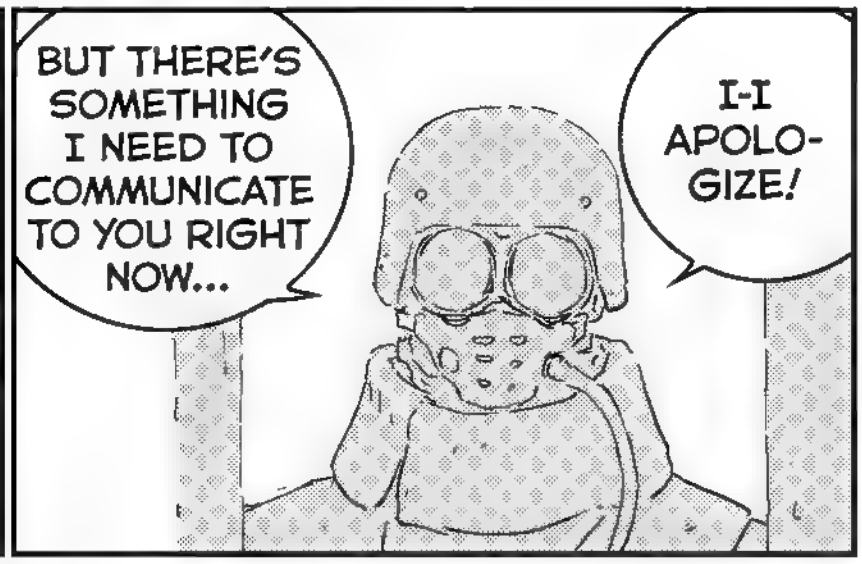
BECAUSE OF YOUR ASSOCIATES, OUR BACKS ARE TO THE WALL. TELL US SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP US! RIGHT NOW!!

YOU'D BETTER WORRY MORE ABOUT YOURSELF, WASABU THE DESERTER.

YOU KNOW WHAT THE IMPERIAL MILITARY DOES IN INTERROGATIONS, DON'T YOU?







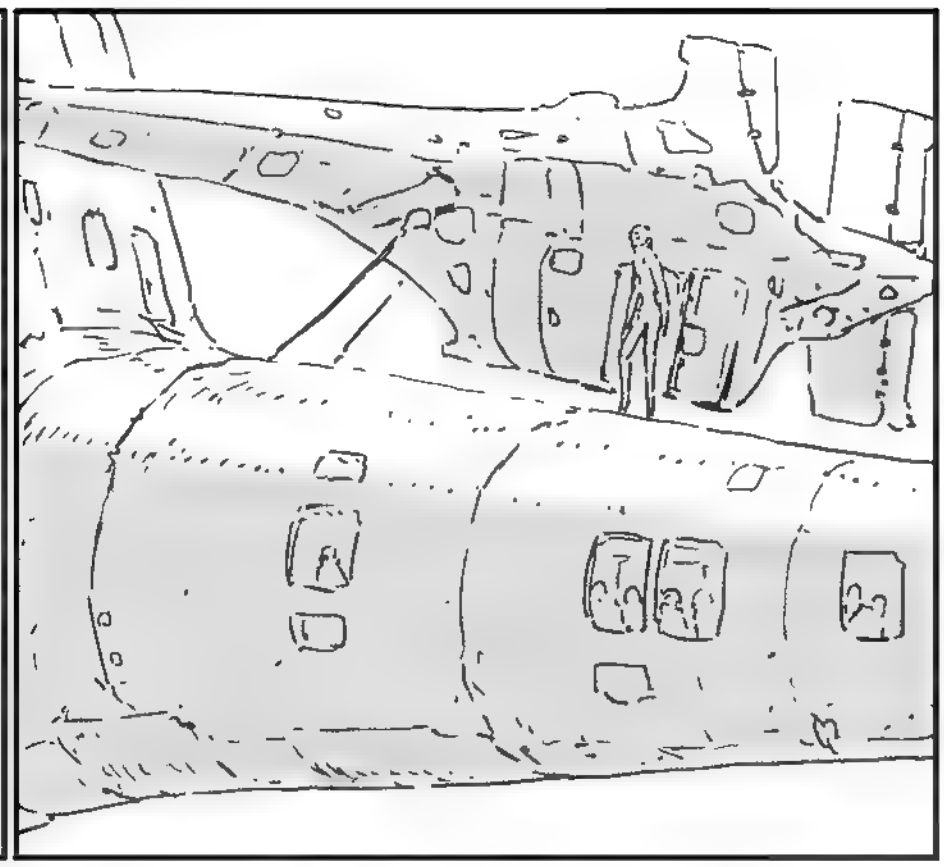
HUH ?!

ONE OF OUR MILITARY'S HIGH-SPEED CRAFTS IS HEADED THIS WAY.

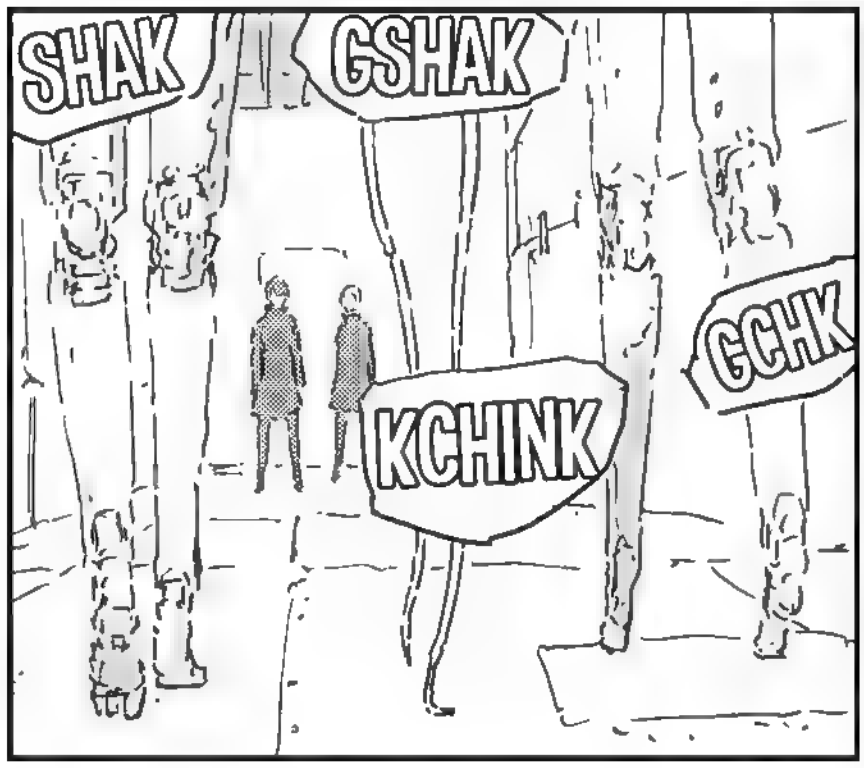
VEEEN

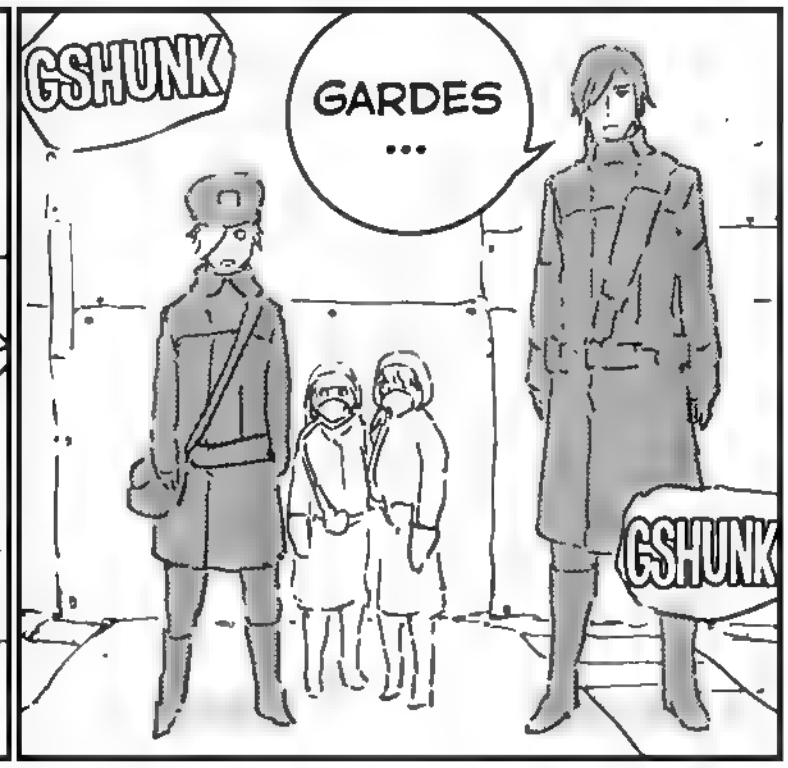
DUN DUN DUN DUN DUN

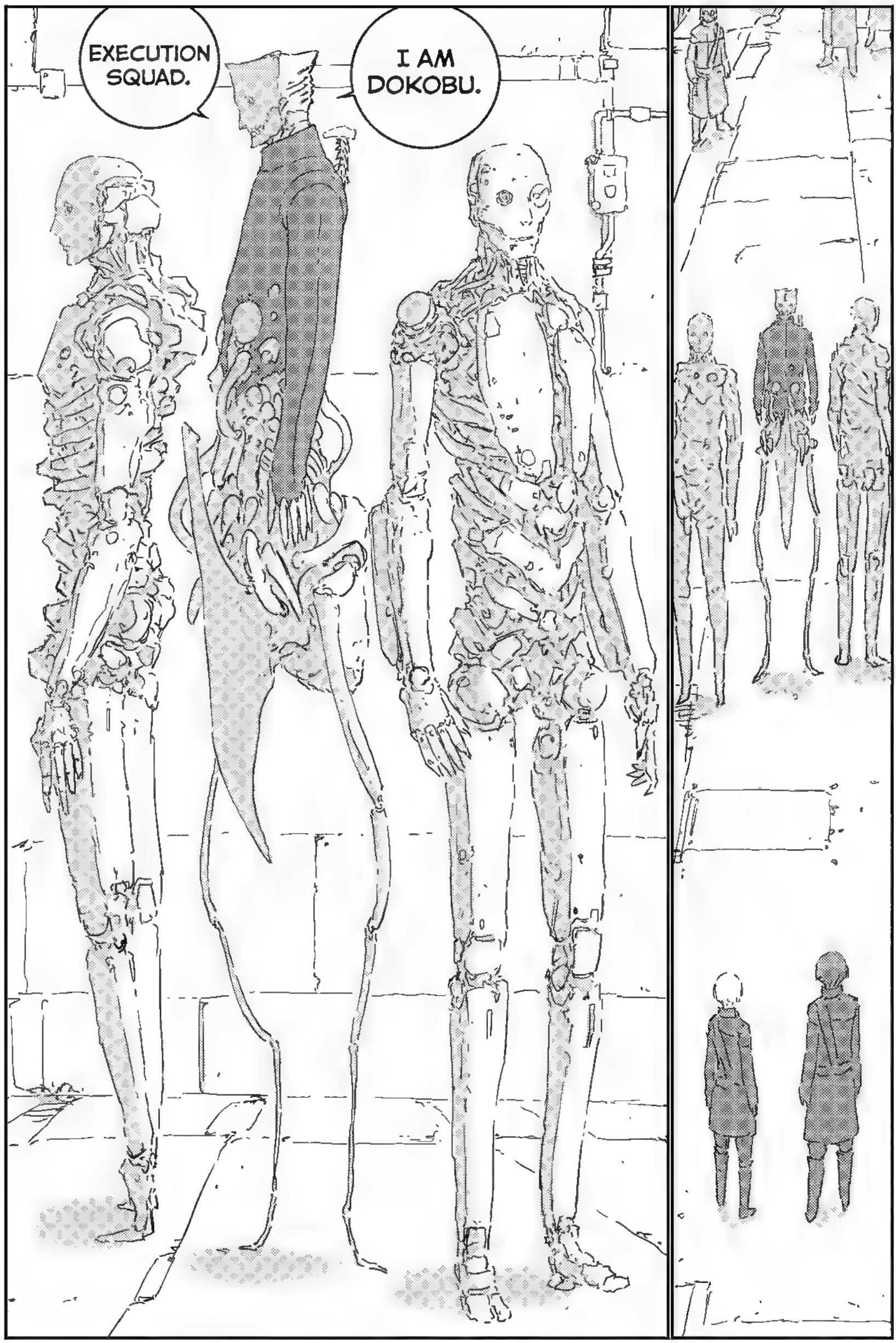
VYOOON

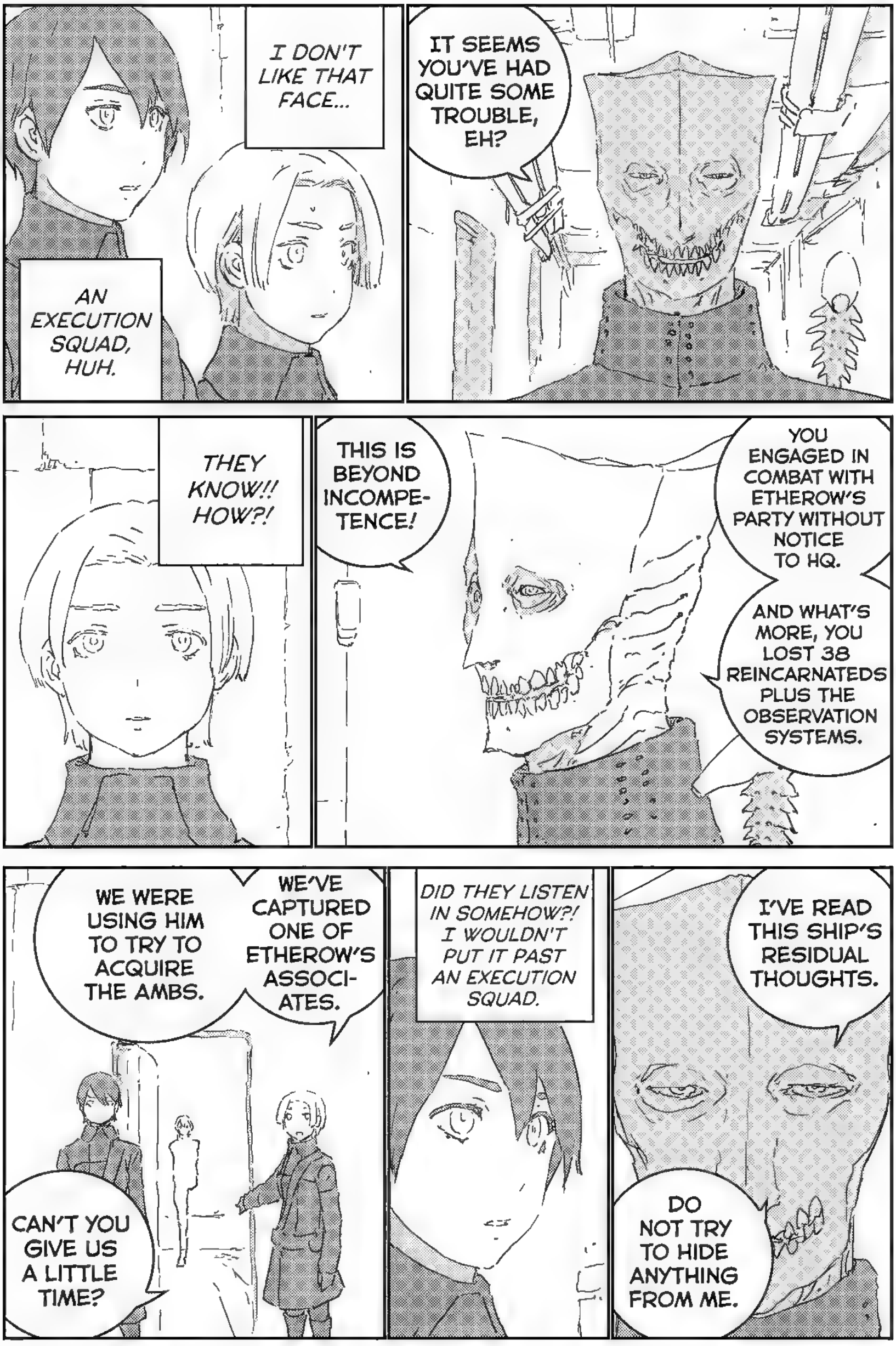


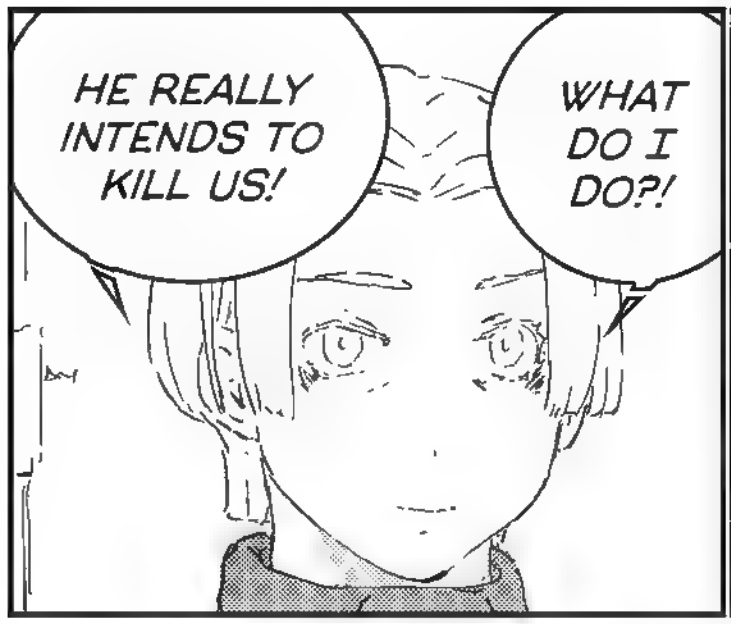
GCHZK
!
GSHZK
EEP!

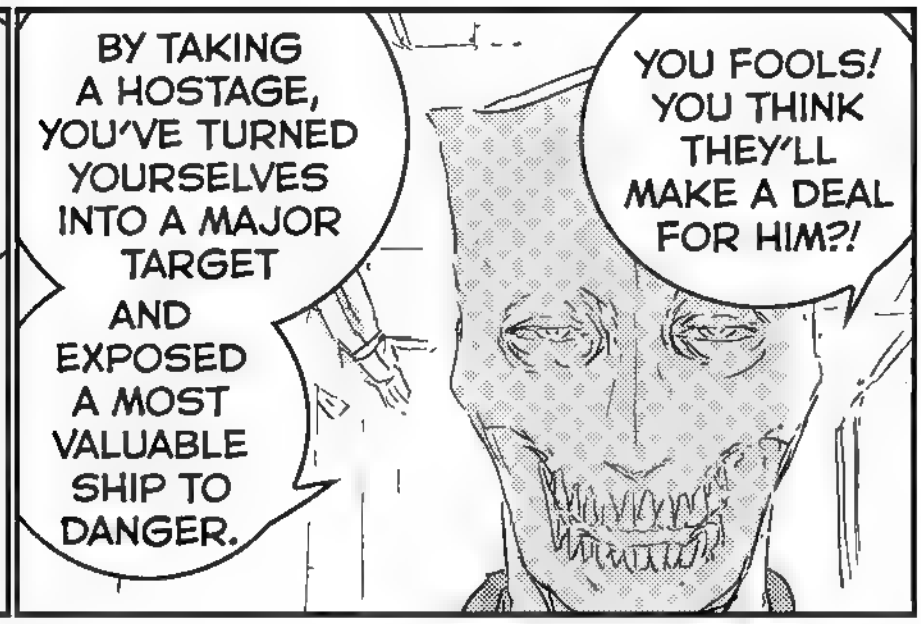

SHAK
GSHAK
KCHINK
GCHK

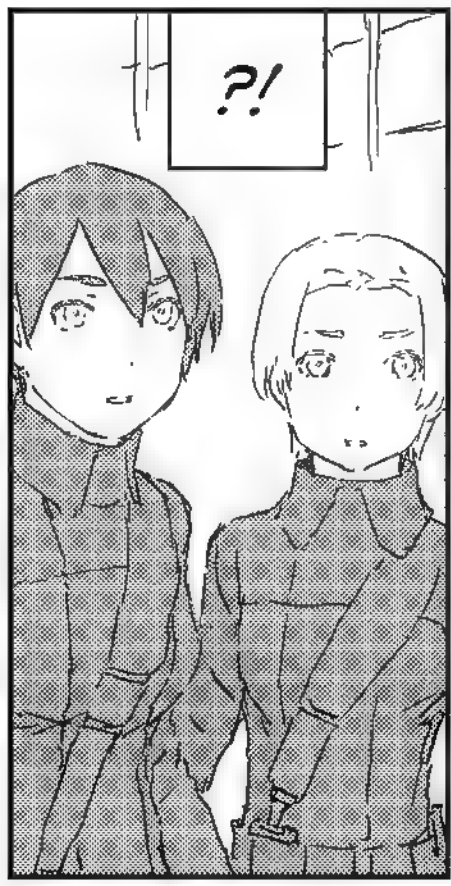

GSHUNK
GARDES
...
GSHUNK


EXECUTION SQUAD.
I AM DOKOBU.


I DON'T LIKE THAT FACE...
AN EXECUTION SQUAD, HUH.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE HAD QUITE SOME TROUBLE, EH?
THEY KNOW!! HOW?!
THIS IS BEYOND INCOMPE-TENCE!
YOU ENGAGED IN COMBAT WITH ETHEROW'S PARTY WITHOUT NOTICE TO HQ.
AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU LOST 38 REINCARNATEDS PLUS THE OBSERVATION SYSTEMS.
WE WERE USING HIM TO TRY TO ACQUIRE THE AMBS.
WE'VE CAPTURED ONE OF ETHEROW'S ASSOCI-ATES.
CAN'T YOU GIVE US A LITTLE TIME?
DID THEY LISTEN IN SOMEHOW?! I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST AN EXECUTION SQUAD.
I'VE READ THIS SHIP'S RESIDUAL THOUGHTS.
DO NOT TRY TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME.


HE REALLY INTENDS TO KILL US!
WHAT DO I DO?!

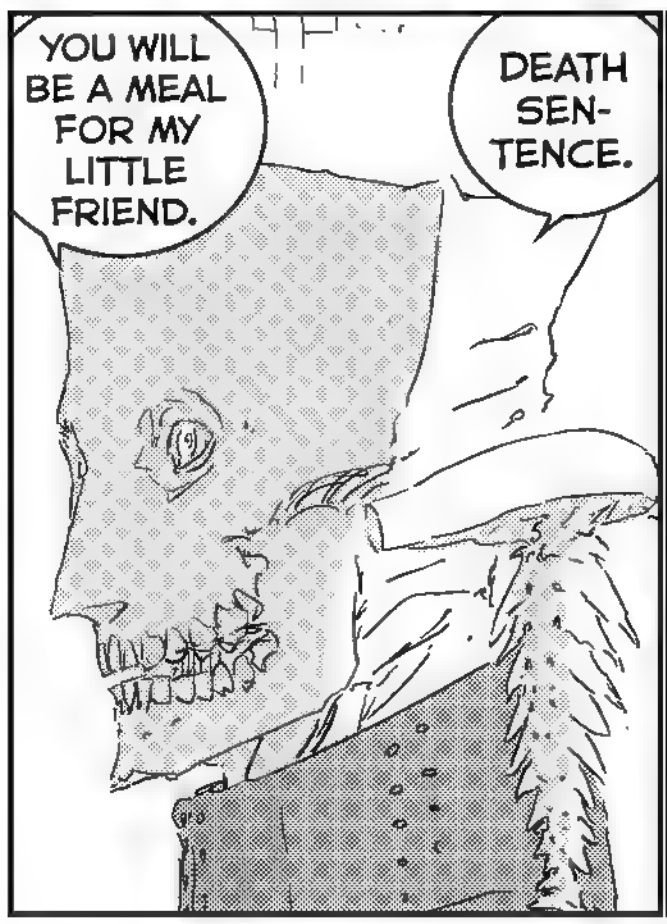

BY TAKING A HOSTAGE, YOU'VE TURNED YOURSELVES INTO A MAJOR TARGET AND EXPOSED A MOST VALUABLE SHIP TO DANGER.
YOU FOOLS! YOU THINK THEY'LL MAKE A DEAL FOR HIM?!


?!

AS I TOLD YOU, I CAN READ THOUGHTS. I WARNED YOU SPECIFICALLY. YOU HOPELESS FOOLS.

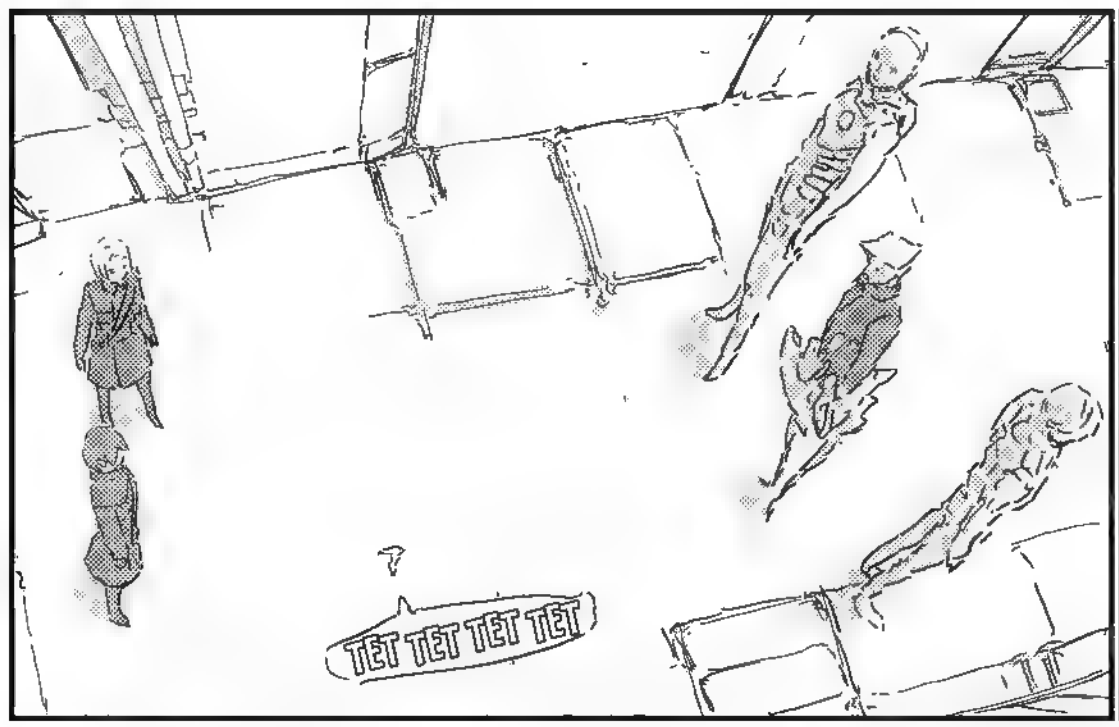
HUH ?!

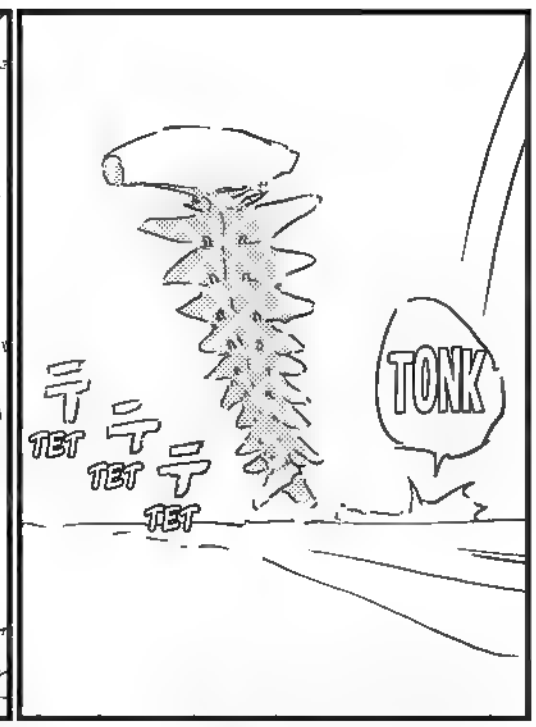
IF WE'RE GOING TO END UP BECOMING PLACENTA FOR THIS FREAK,
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, WE'LL ARMOR UP!
I'D RATHER GO DOWN FIGHTING.


YOU WILL BE A MEAL FOR MY LITTLE FRIEND.
DEATH SEN-TENCE.

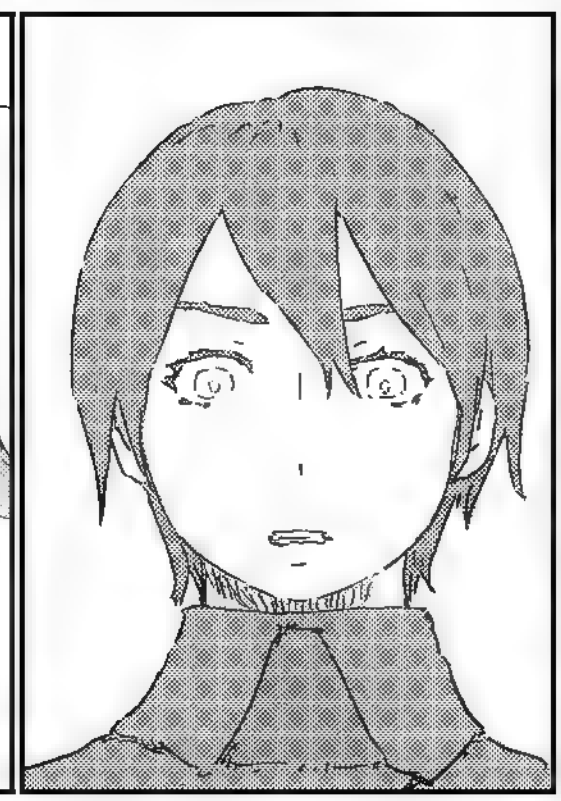
!!

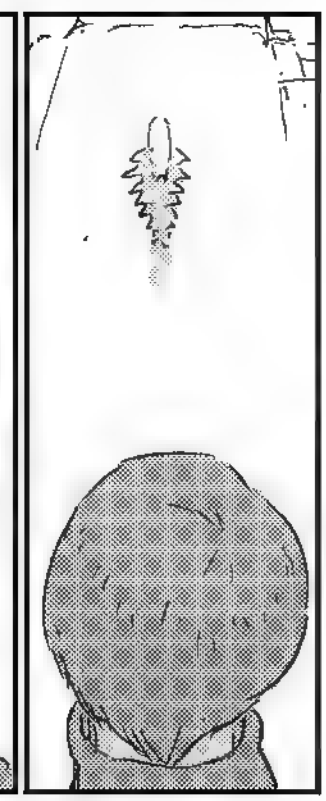
YOU JUST THOUGHT ABOUT SMASHING MY HEAD IN!
YOU! THE TALL ONE.


TET TET TET TET

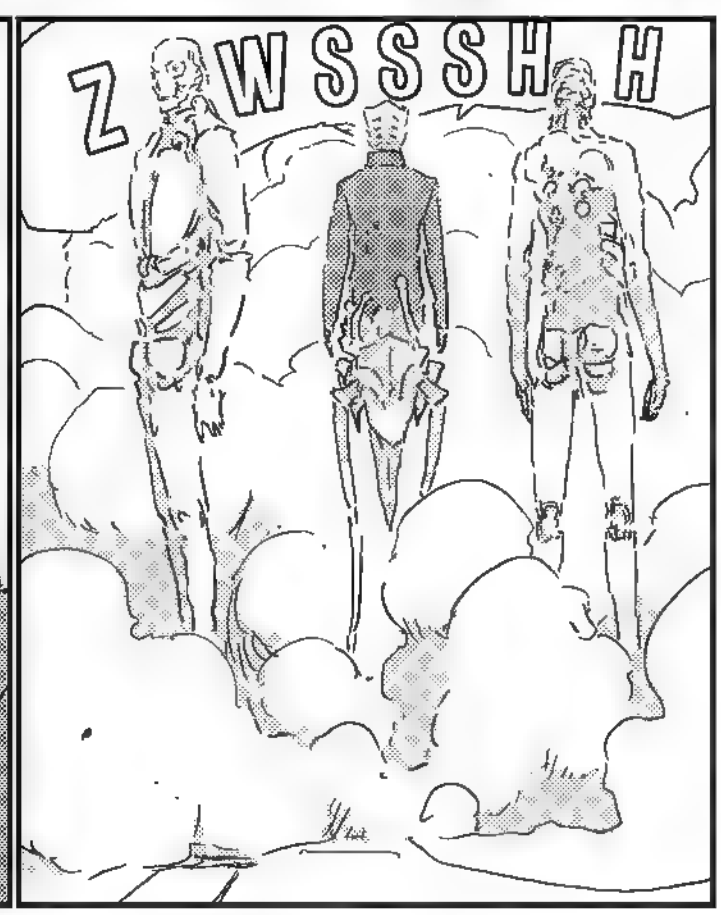

TONK
TET
TET
TET

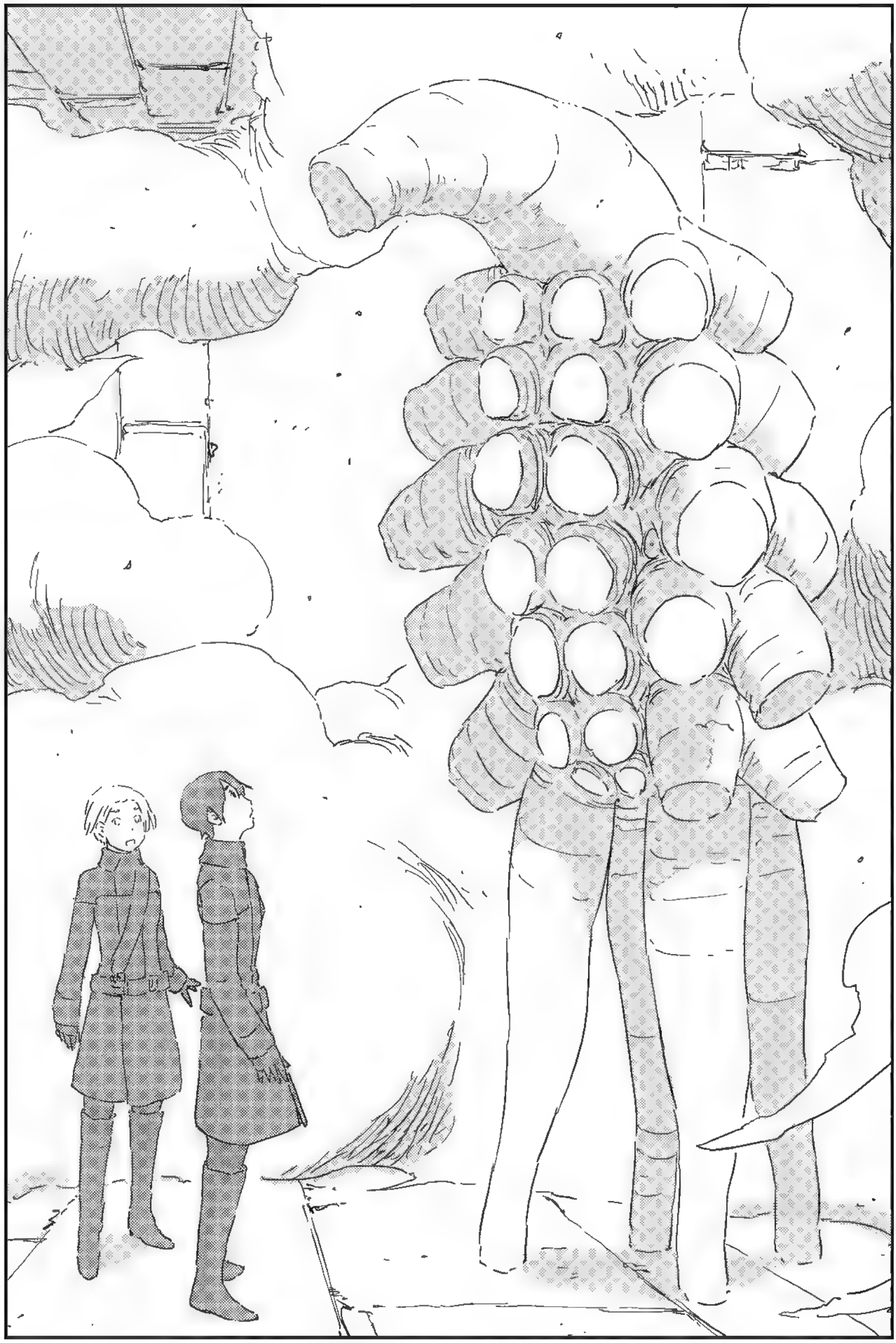
FLRP
SWRP



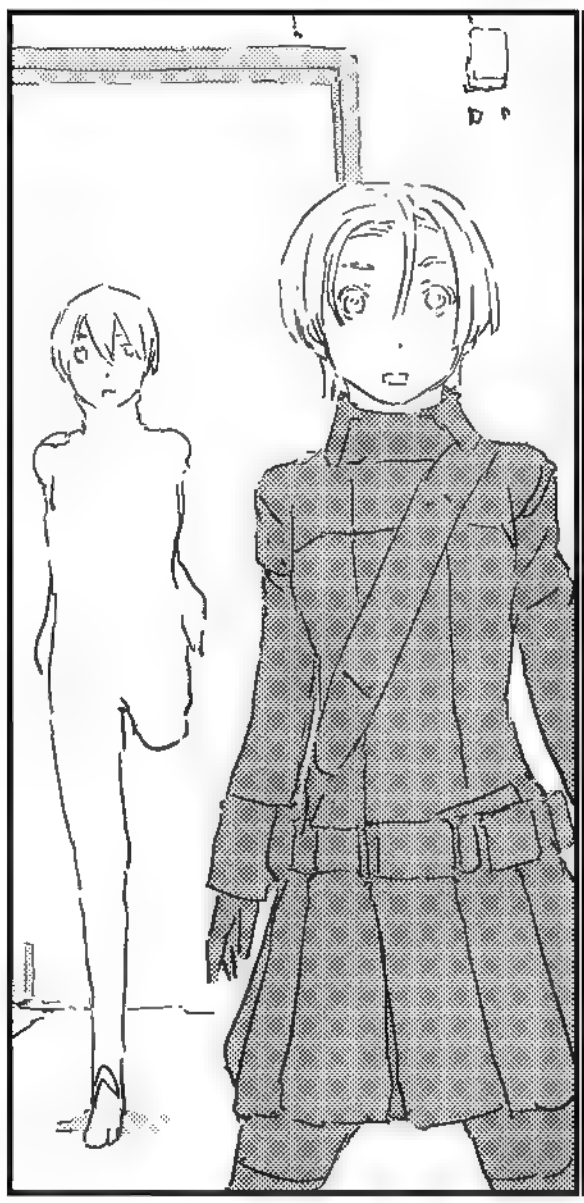


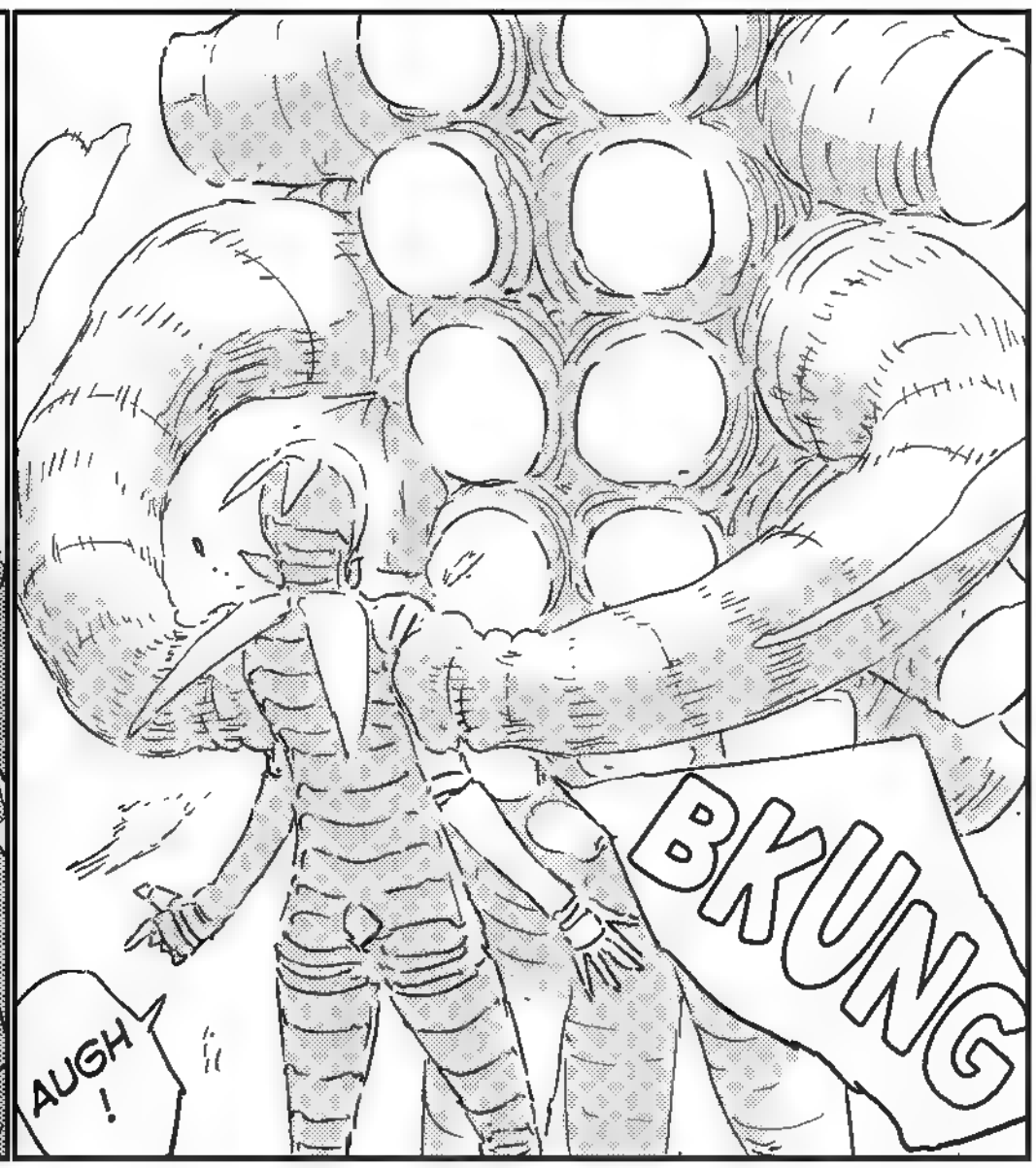
!!

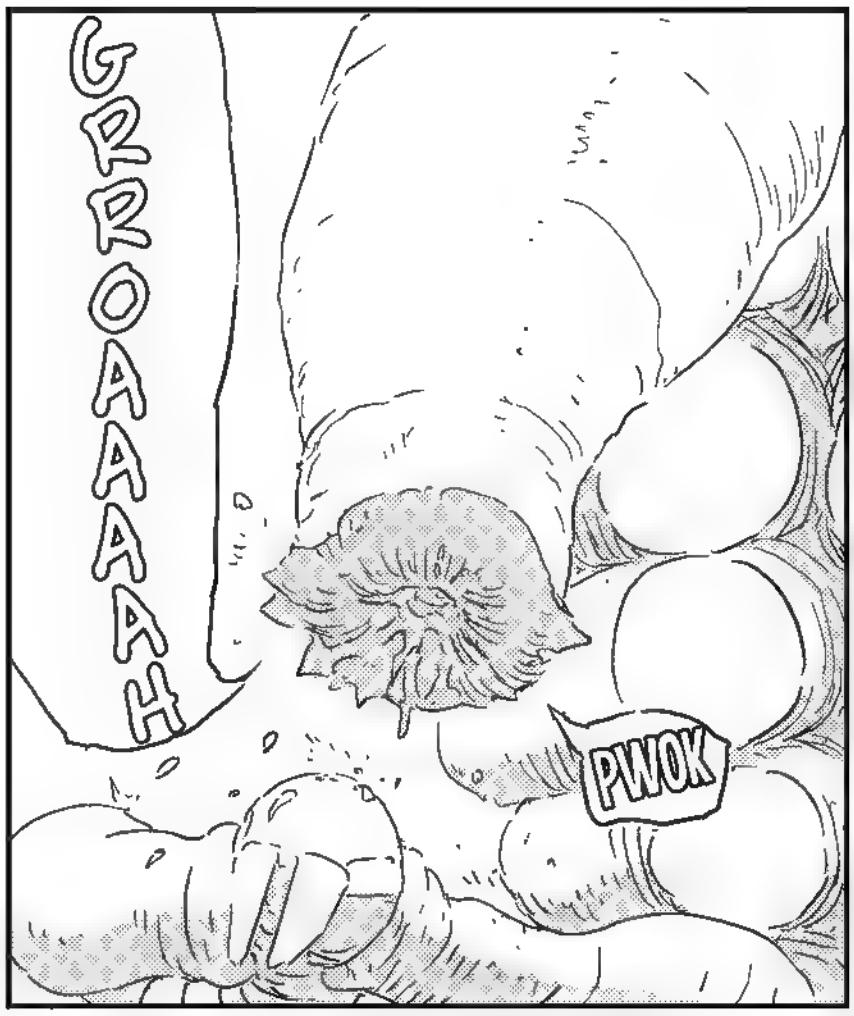

ZWSSSHH



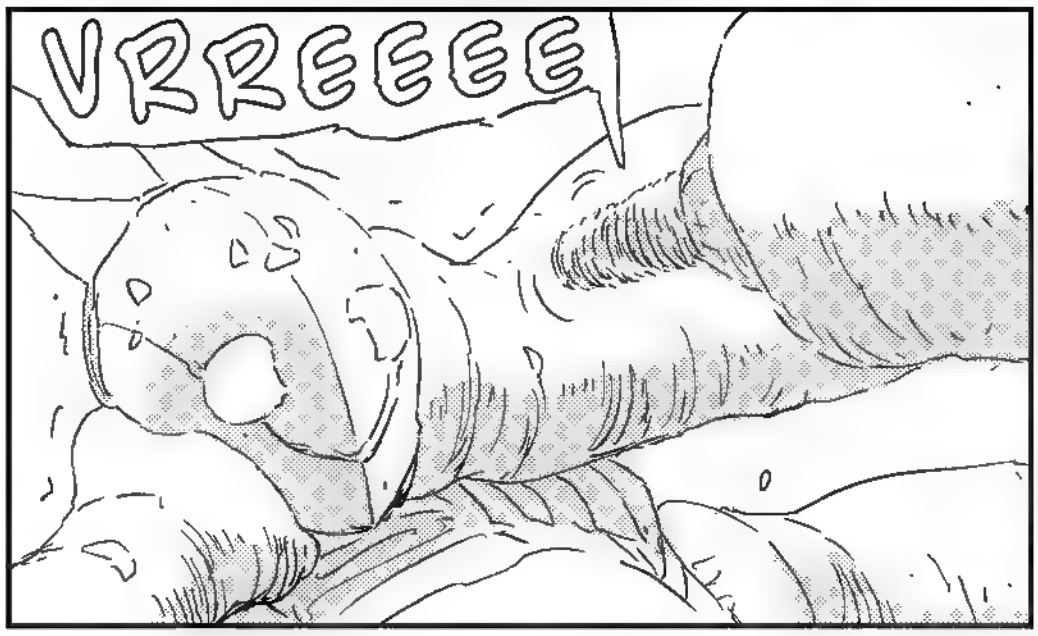
!!

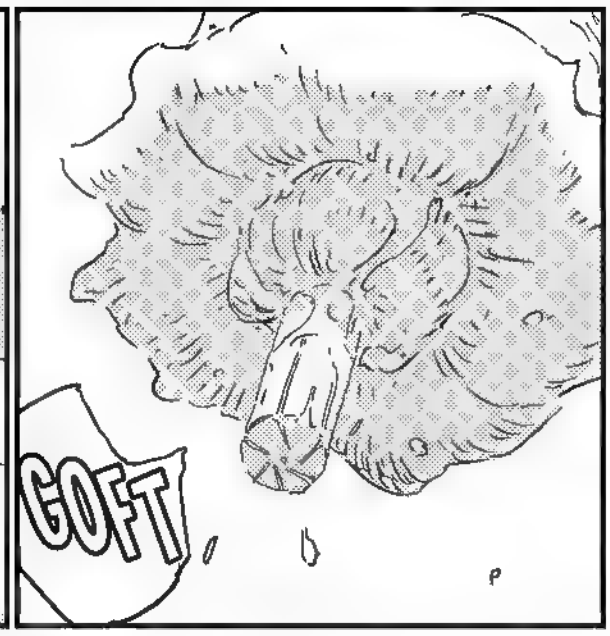


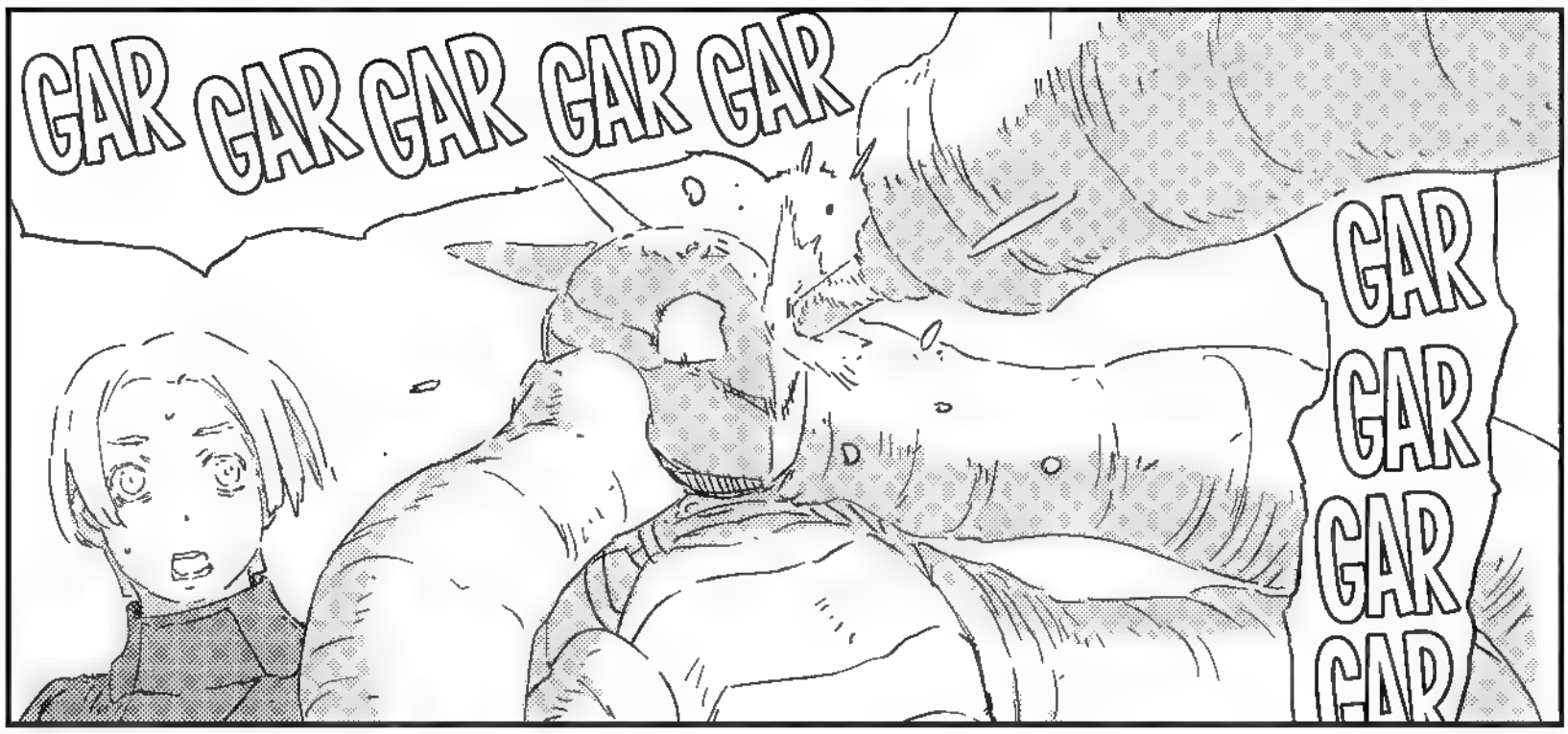

BKUNG
AUGH !


GRROAAAAH
PWOK

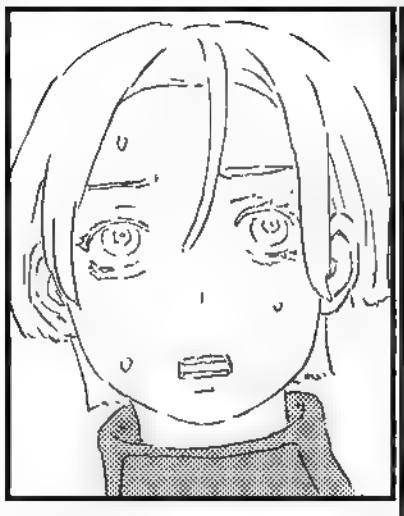
WAM
WAM


VRREEEEE

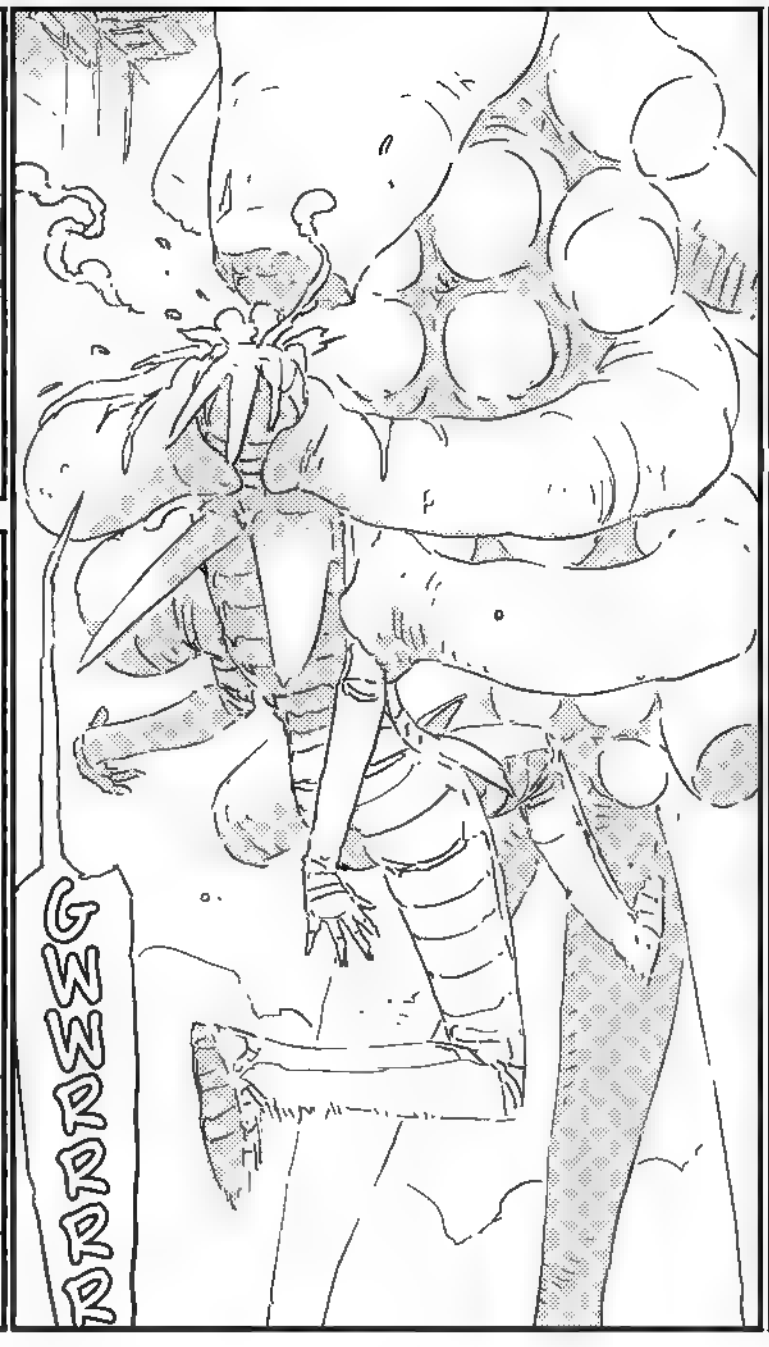

GOFT


GAR GAR GAR GAR GAR
GAR GAR GAR GAR

AAAAAUGH!
GWREE GREE GREE GREE GREE

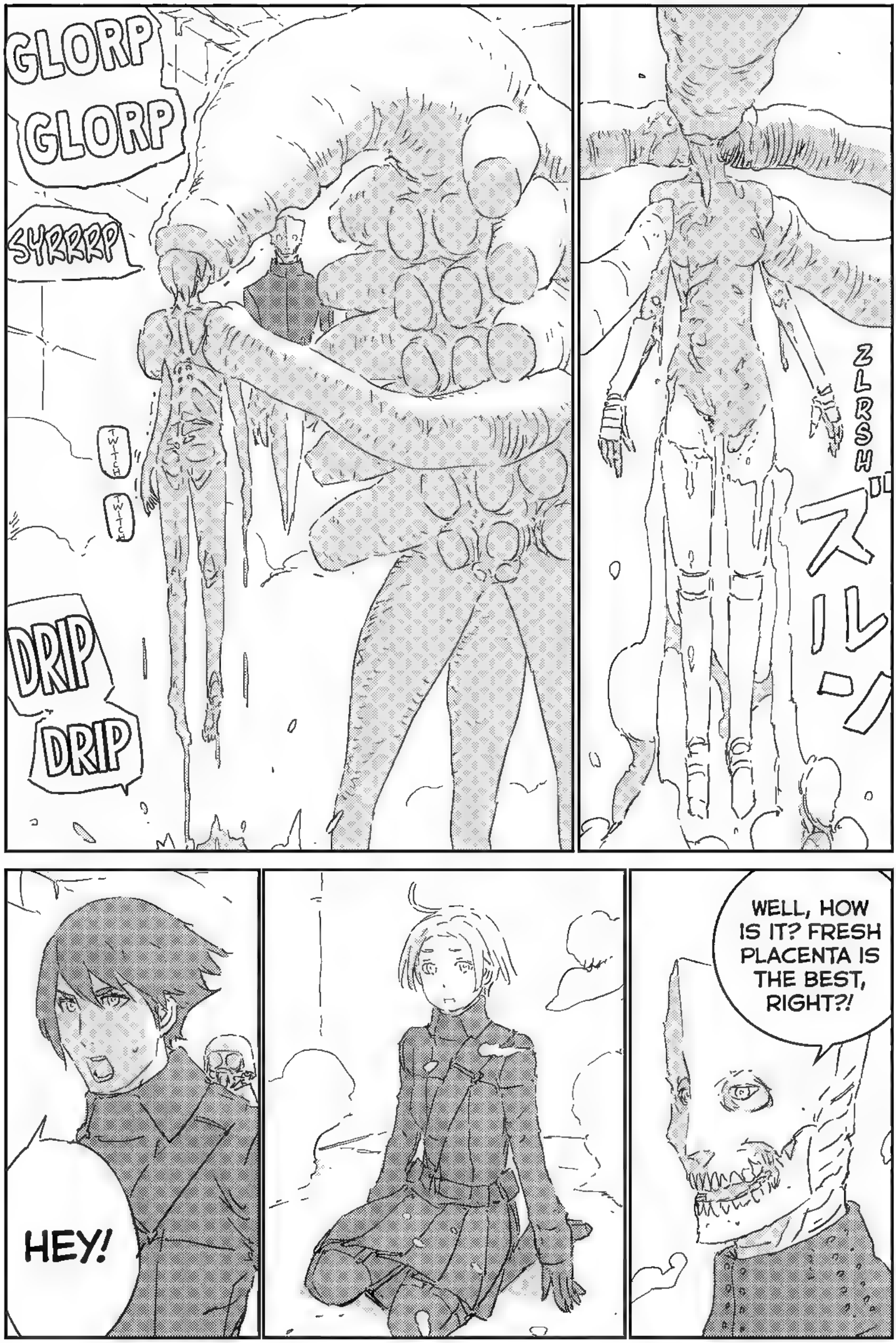


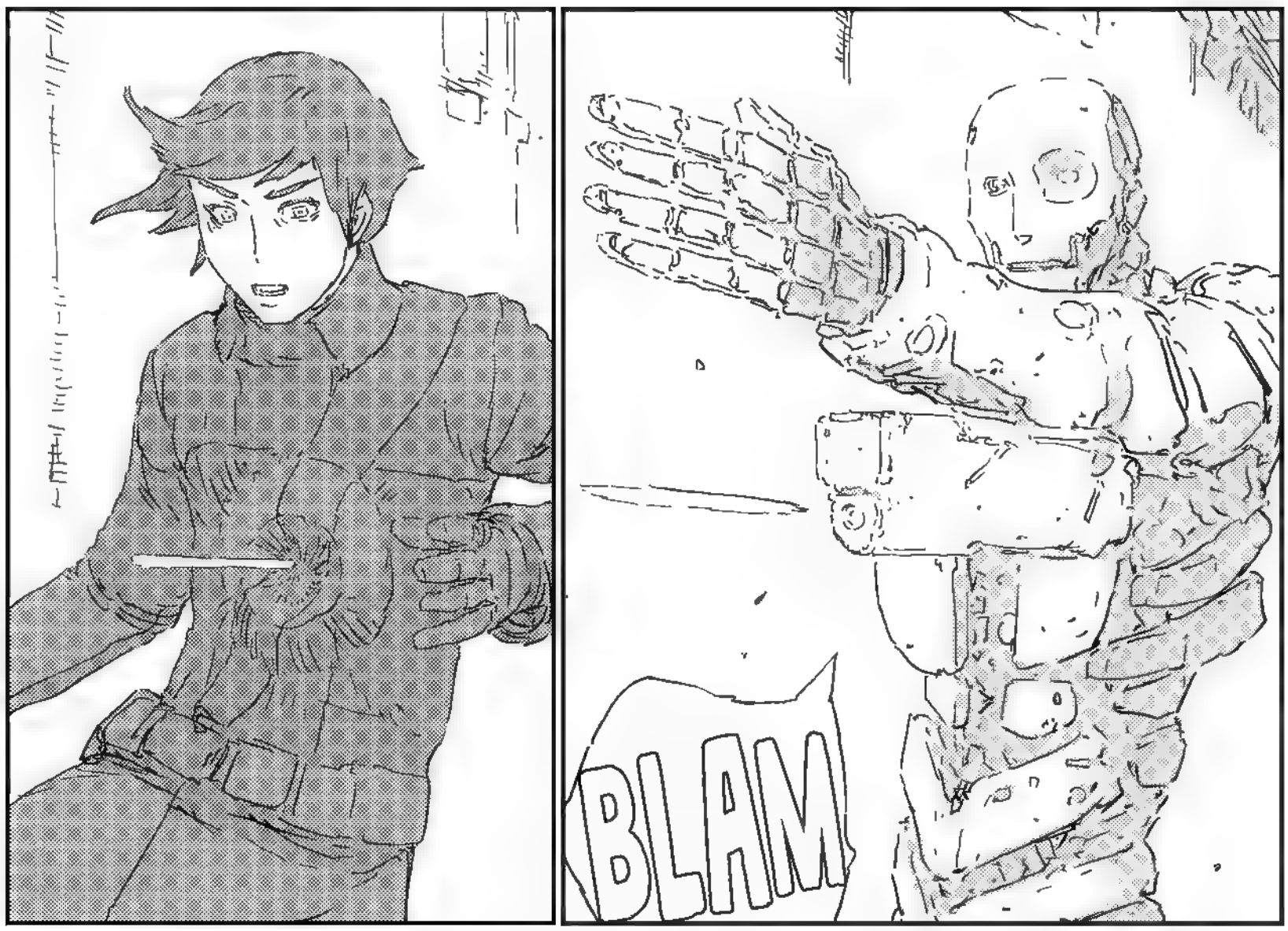
GLMP

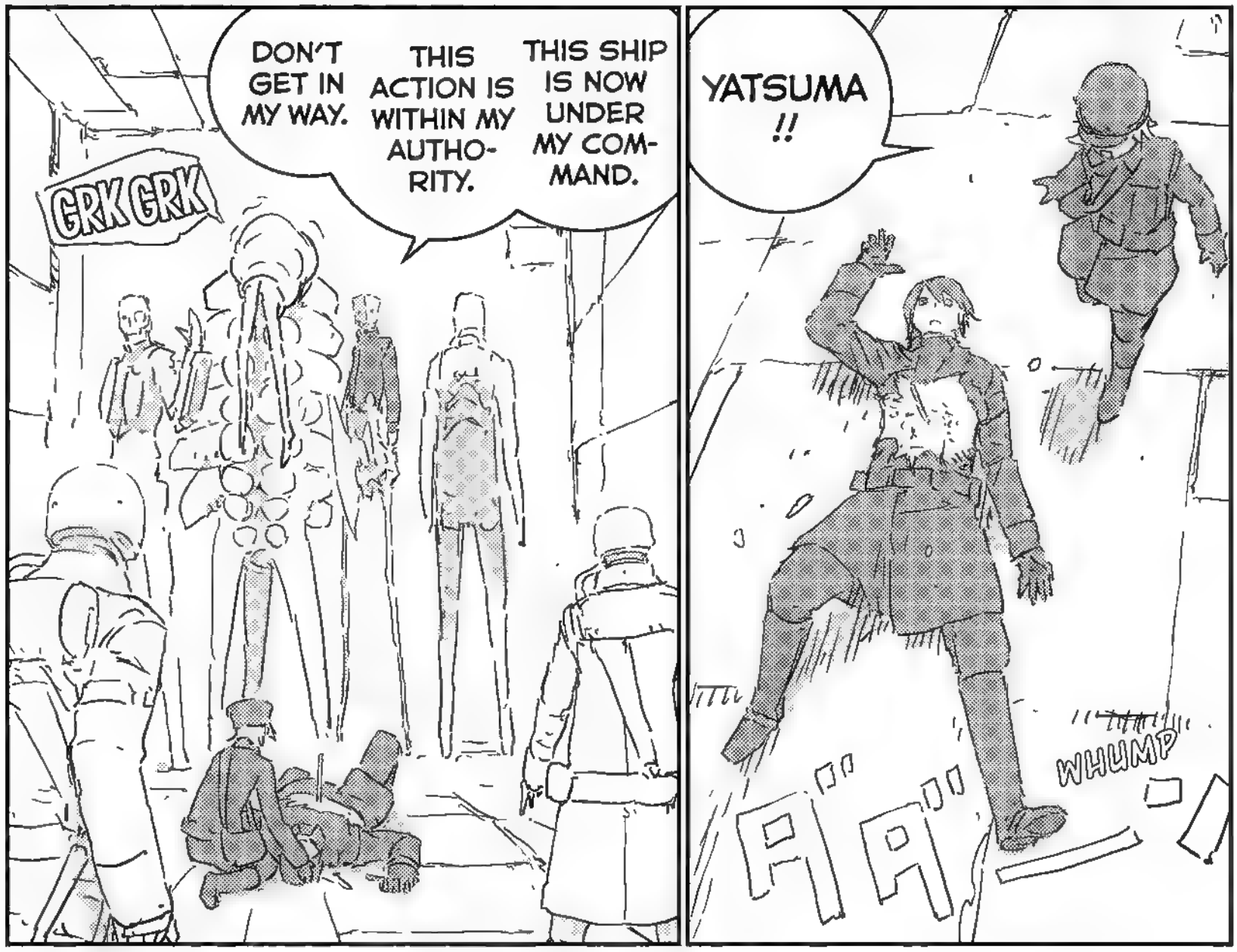

GWRRRR

AAAAGH!!

STOPPP!
GREE GREE GREE GREE GREE GREE GREE
H-HOLD ON! YOU CAN'T–


GLORP
GLORP
SYRRRP
TWITCH
TWITCH
DRIP
DRIP
ZLRSH
ズレロ
HEY!
WELL, HOW IS IT? FRESH PLACENTA IS THE BEST, RIGHT?!


BLAM


GRK GRK
DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
THIS ACTION IS WITHIN MY AUTHO-RITY.
THIS SHIP IS NOW UNDER MY COM-MAND.
YATSUMA !!
WHUMP

THE EMPIRE IS AFTER THE AMBS WHICH ARE IN YOUR POSSESSION.
YES.
KILLING WASABU WOULD GAIN THEM NOTHING.
I'M SURE WASABU IS STILL ALIVE.
?!
HAK
...

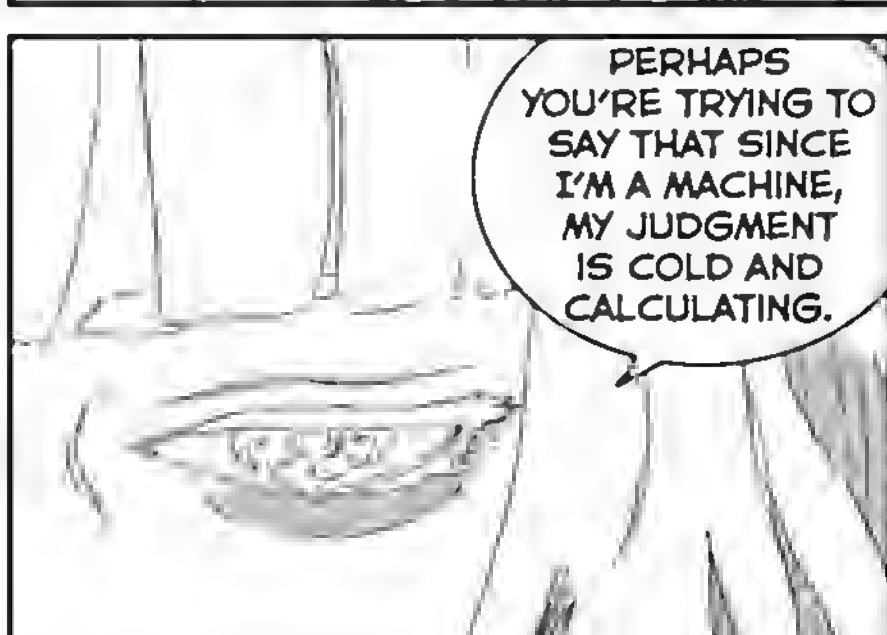
CALM DOWN, ETHEROW.

HUH?!
LETTING THE EMPIRE KNOW THAT I'M HERE.

ETHEROW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

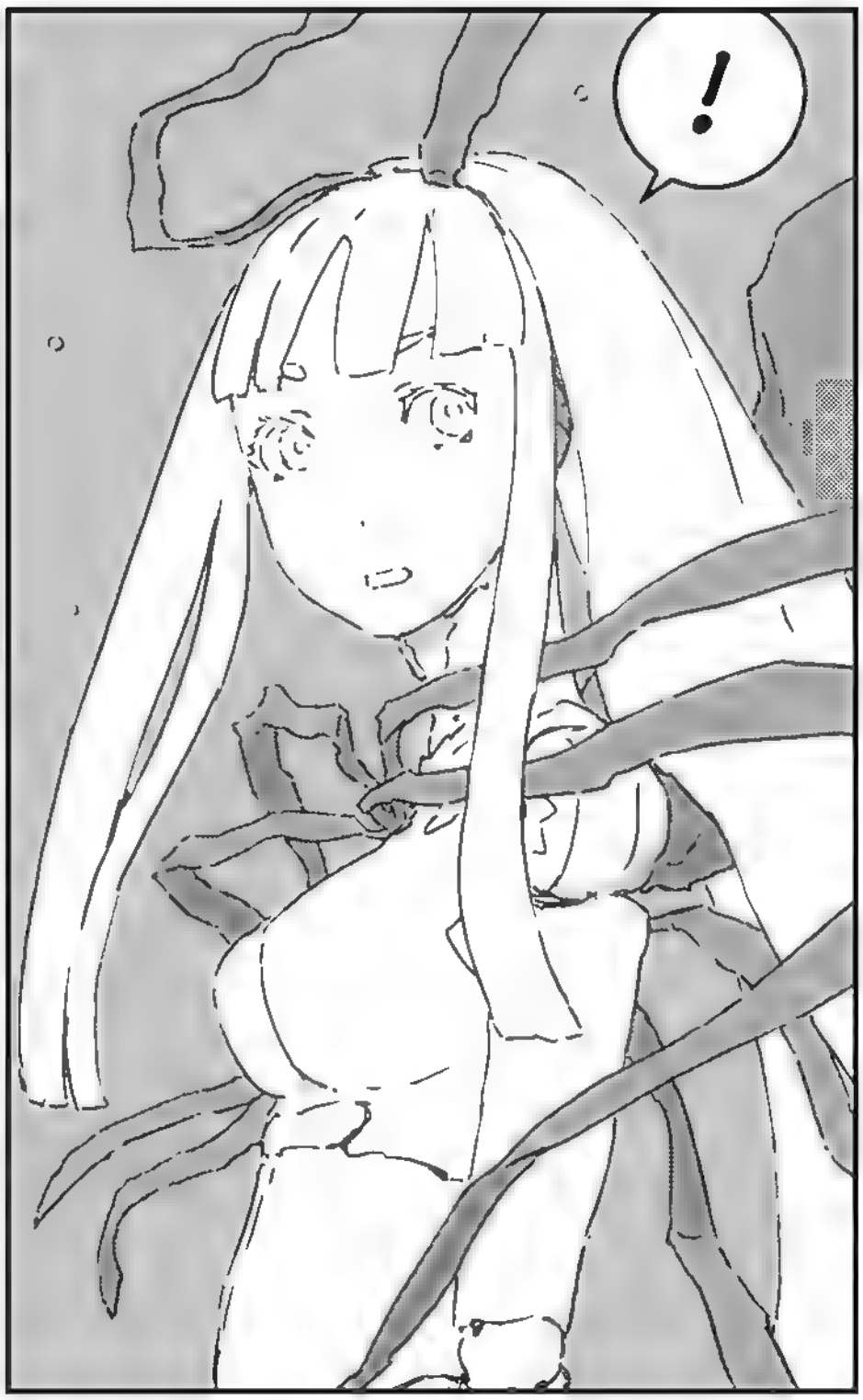
WHSSHH

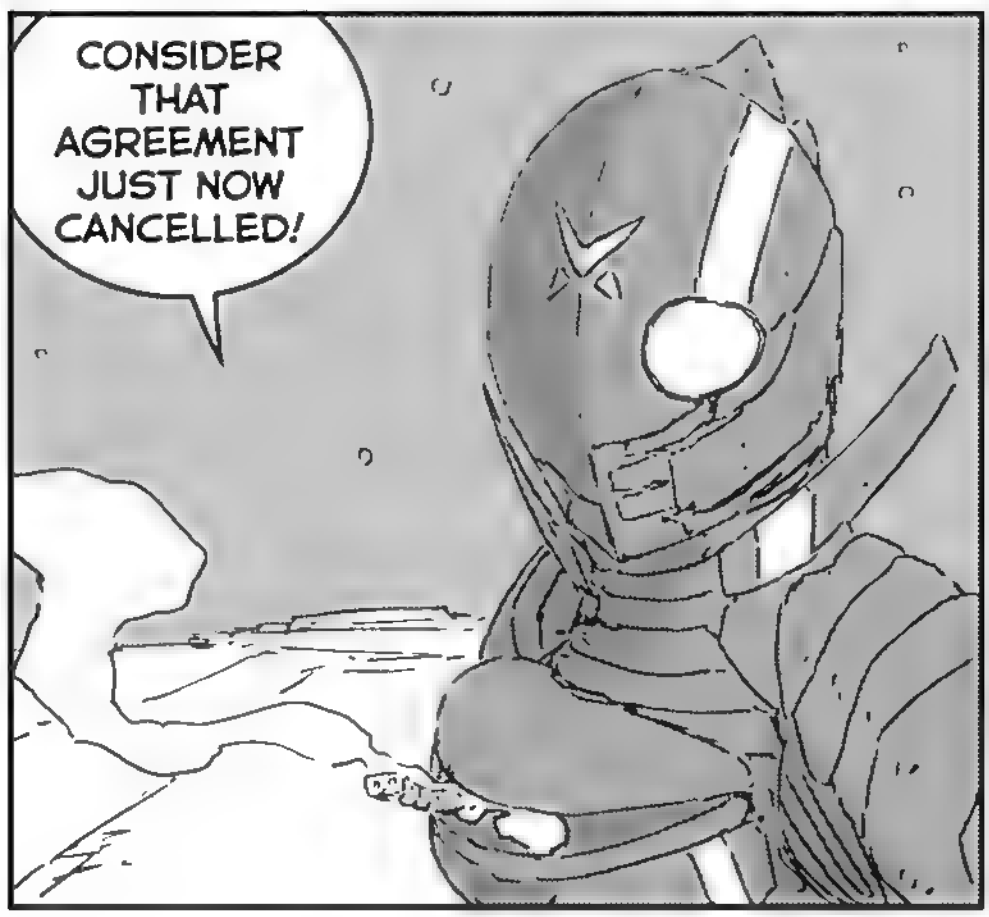
BLAM!
THEY'VE TAKEN WASABU!
CALM DOWN ?

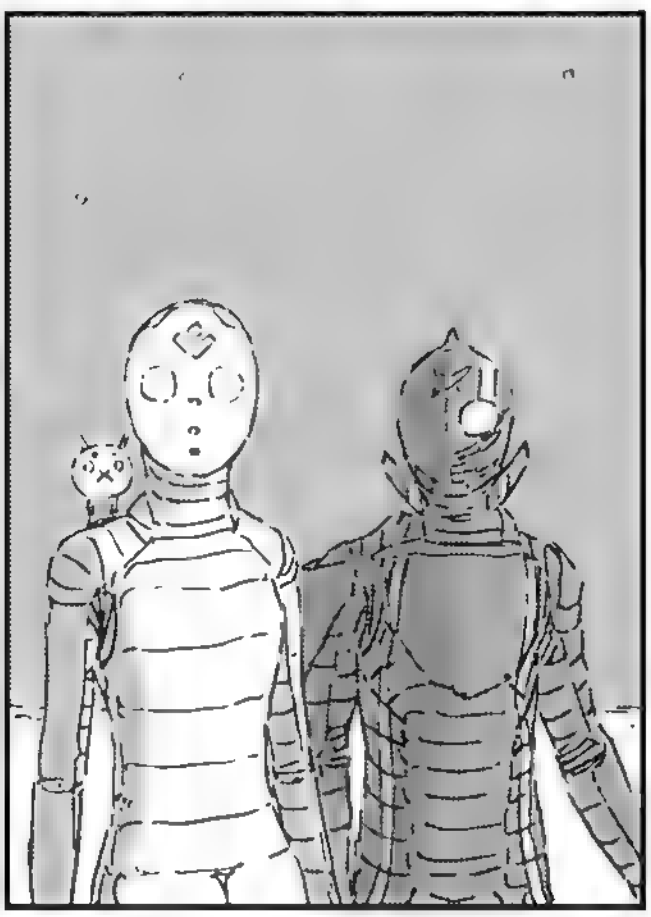

PERHAPS YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY THAT SINCE I'M A MACHINE, MY JUDGMENT IS COLD AND CALCULATING.

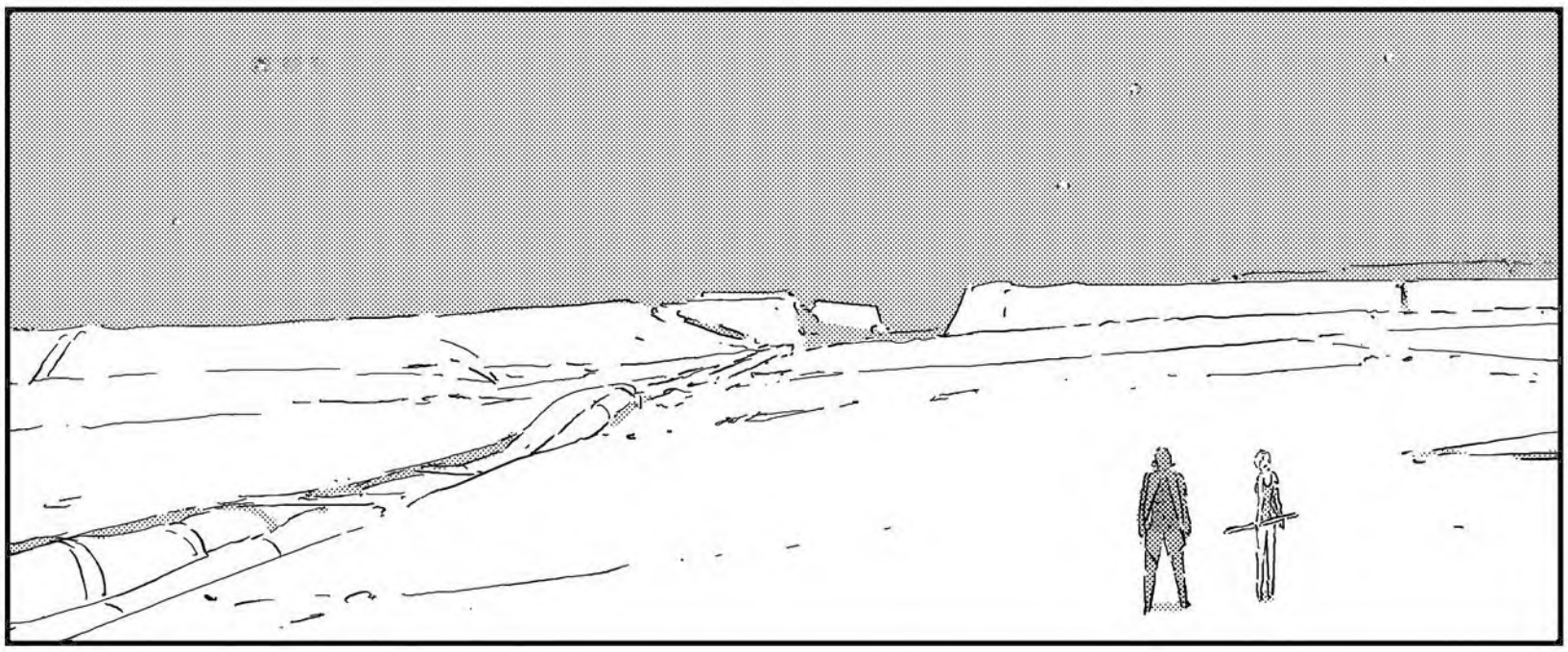
THEN I WILL GRANT YOUR WISH.
DO YOU WANT TO SAVE WASABU THAT BADLY?
ARE YOU HAPPY TO USE UP ONE OF THEM?
HOWEVER, I CAN ONLY GRANT THREE WISHES.
I THOUGHT YOU COULD ONLY CHANGE TO HUMANOID FORM ONCE A DAY.
TITANIA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
VERY WELL. IT WILL BE DONE.
IF YOU CAN REALLY DO IT, THEN YES.

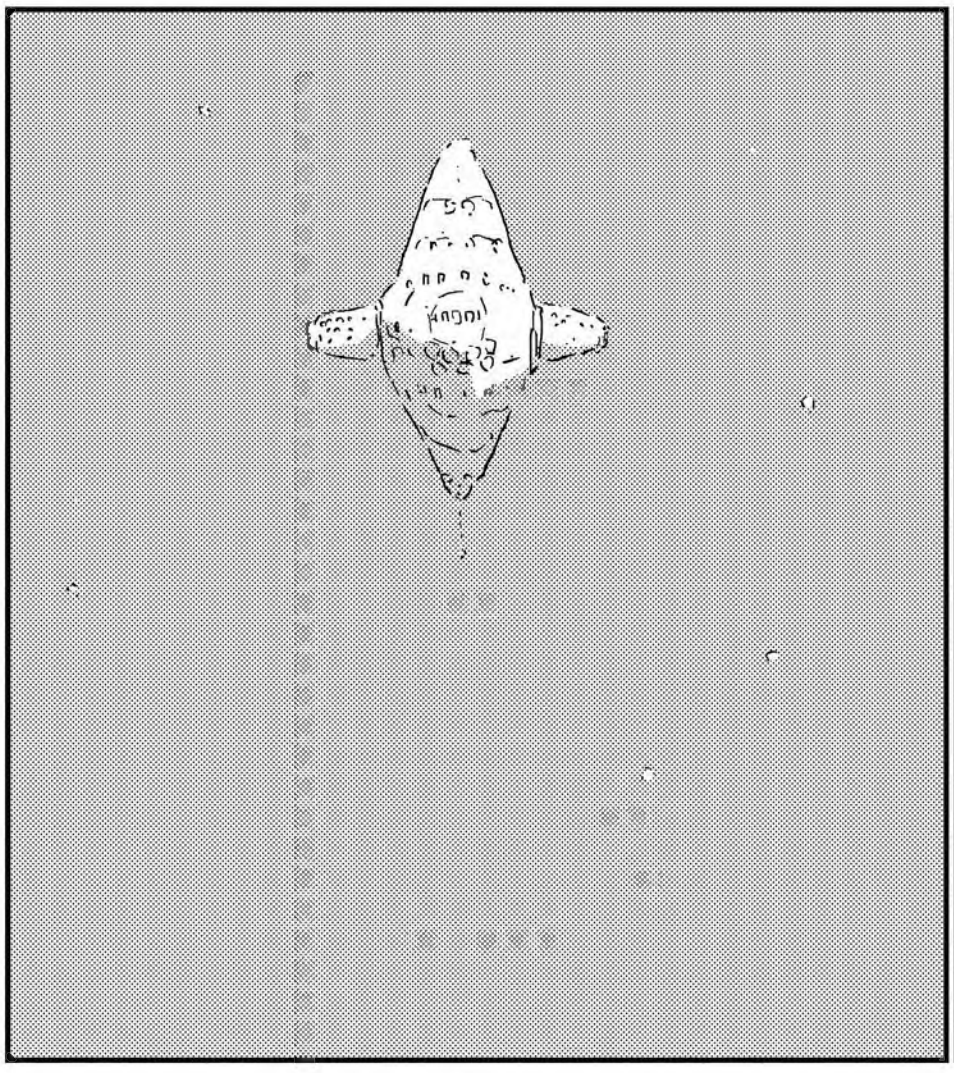
WASABU IS ON BOARD!
SOME-THING IS COMING... A SHIP.
WHRRSSH

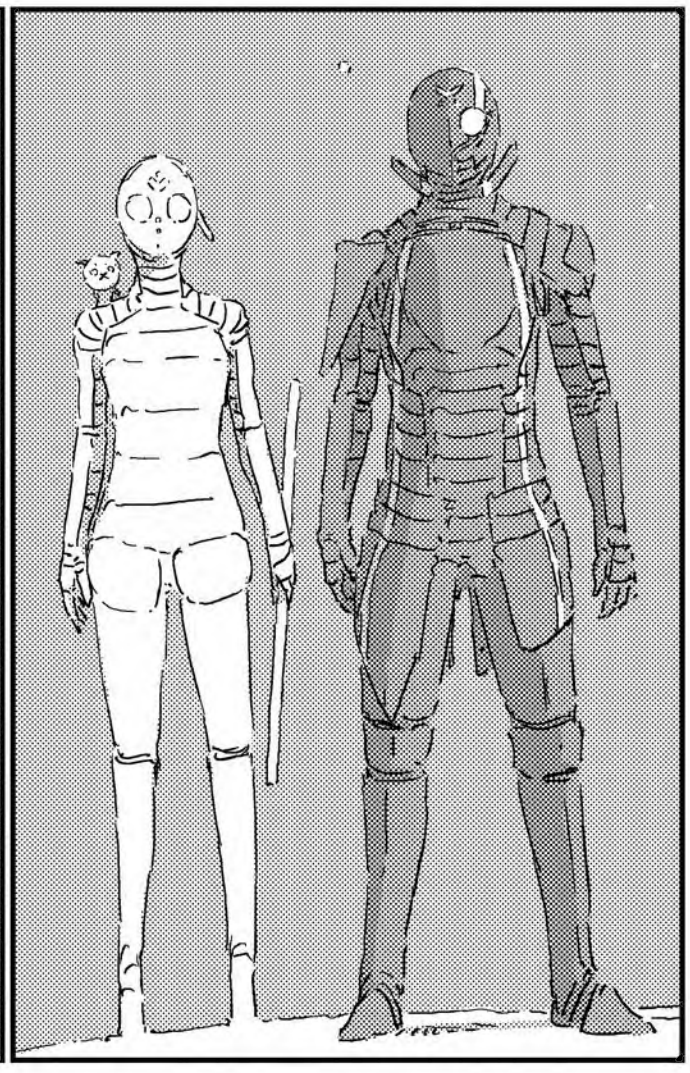

!

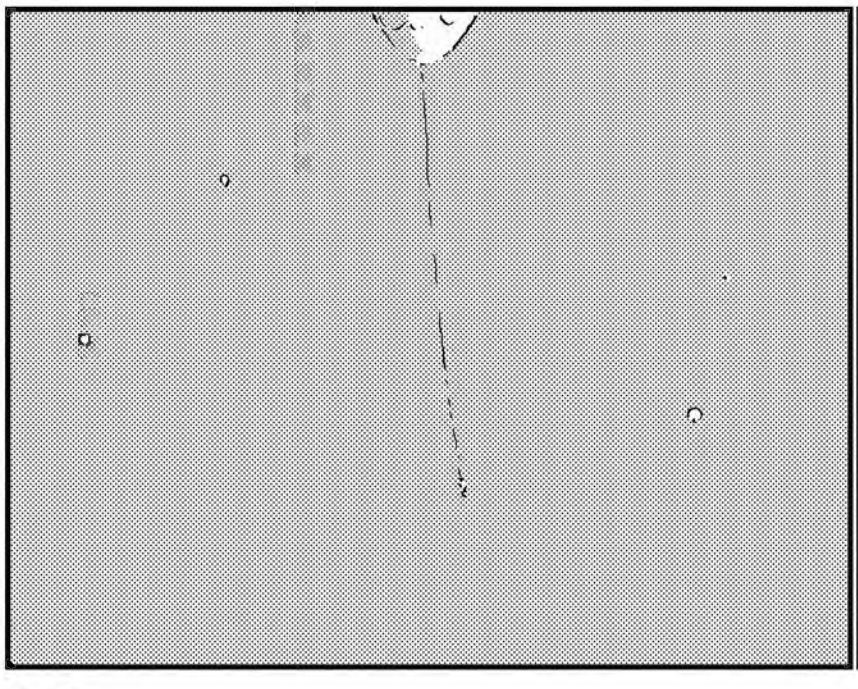

CONSIDER THAT AGREEMENT JUST NOW CANCELLED!

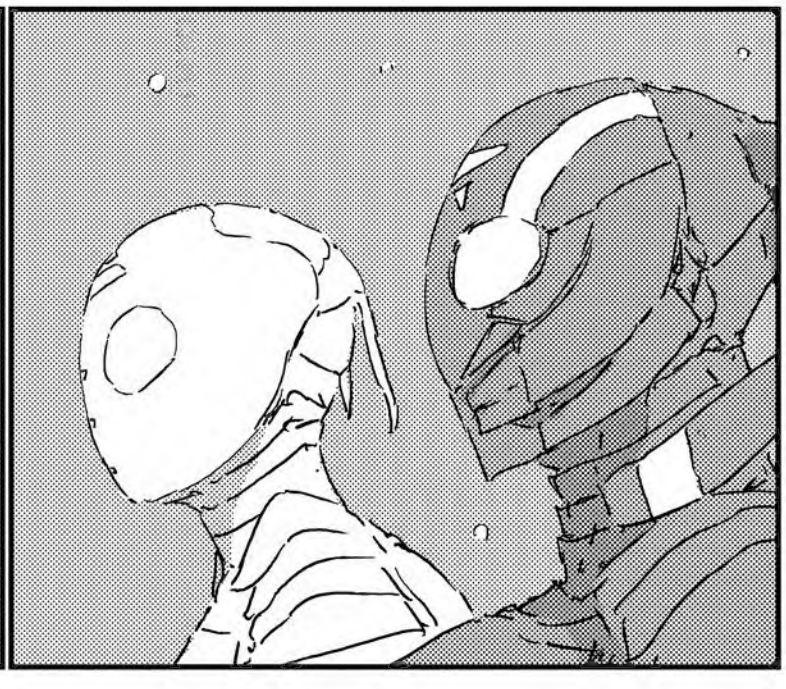


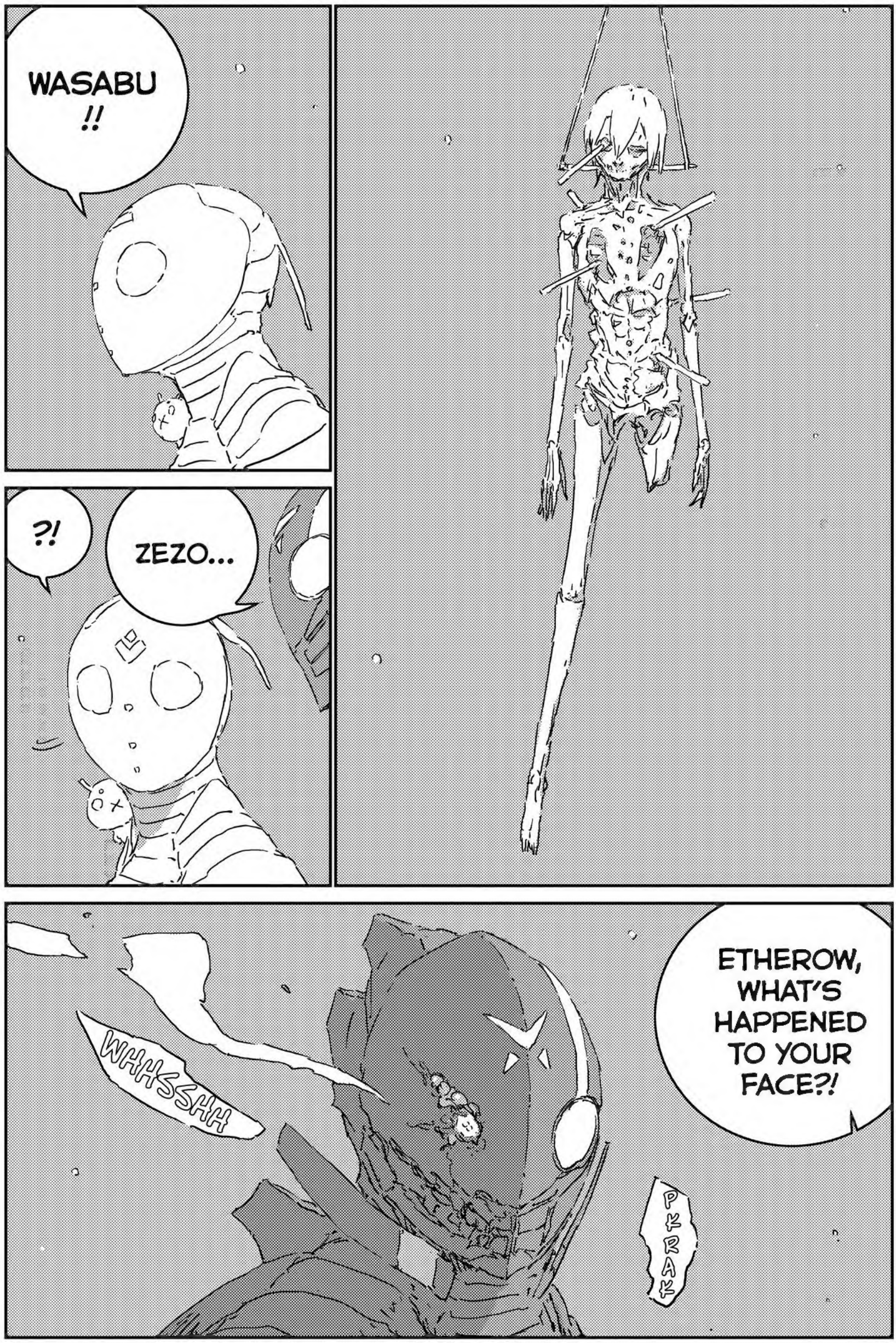












CHAPTER 48 END

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9

APOSIMZ 8

Kodansha Digital Edition

APOSIMZ volume 8 copyright © 2021 Tsutomu Nihei
English translation copyright © 2022 Tsutomu Nihei

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2021 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781636996769

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Kumar Sivasubramanian
Production: Grace Lu
Darren Smith

kodansha.us